Dagon's Fall Before the ARK.

OR,

The Smoak of the Bottomless Pit scoured away, by the breath of the Lords mouth, and by the brightness of his coming.

WRITTEN,

Primarily, As a Testimony for the Lord, his Wisdom, Creation, products of his Power; useful and necessary Knowledge, capacitating people for the concerns of this Life.

Secondarily, As a Testimony against the Old Serpent his wisdom, which is foolishness with God, his Arts, Inventions, Comedies or Interludes, Tragedies, lascivious Poems, frivolous Fables, spoiling Philosophy, taught in Christian Schools.

Wherein, as in a Glass, Teachers in Schools and Colledges may see their concern, neither Christian, nor warrantable.

By *Thomas Lawson.*

Qui novit utilia, non qui multa, sapiens habendus. Orat. D. Rainoldi.

Id verum, quod prius, prius, quod ab initio, ab initio, quod ab Apostolis. Tertul.

Adam *nunquam è beatitudinis paradiso pulsus fuisset, nisi, Serpente Magistro, didicisset scire bonum & malum.* Cornel. Agrip. de Van. Scient.

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MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

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Dagons

DAGON'S Fall before the ARK.

CHAP. I.

Of Heavenly Wiſdom, and her Children, being true and divine Philoſophers.

THere is a wiſdom, whoſe Merchandize tranſcends the Merchandize of Silver, whoſe gain ſurmounts the gain of the pureſt Gold, more precious than Rubies, than the Onyx, Saphire, Chryſtal, Coral, or Topaz of *Ethiopia*; her ways are ways of pleaſantneſs, all her paths are peace; ſhe is a Tree of Life; By her Kings reign, and Princes decree juſtice; her fruit is better than Gold, her revenue than choice Silver; ſhe was from everlaſting, or ever the Earth was, before the Depths, before the Fountains abounding with waters, before the Mountains were ſettled, before the Hills towered up, before the Curtain of the Heavens was prepared, before the Clouds above were eſtabliſhed, before the Sea had its decree, before the foundation of the Earth was appointed, before the Rain, or pearly drops

of Dew, before the Ice, and hoary frost of Heaven, before the *Pleides*, and the bands of *Orion*, before *Mazzaroth*, *Arcturus*, and his Sons, before the Bottles of Heaven were poured out: In this wisdom *Adam* was created, in purity, innocency, and righteousness, a noble extract; in this, he had dominion over the Fish of the Sea, over the Fowl of the Air, over the Cattle, over all the Earth, and over every creeping thing; through the virtue and influence of this, he knew his Creator, and had an understanding of the natures and properties of the Creation, and gave names to all Cattle, and to the Fowl of the Air, and to every Beast of the Field, and that significant names.

Through this, *Adam* was all fair, through a Garment conferred upon him, out of the Wardrobe of Eternity; while in the love and power of this, he was a true Divine Philosopher; that is, a Lover of wisdom, not tainted by the intermixture of the Serpent, nor his ensnaring inventions. The living God (saith the Paraphrast on the *Samaritan Pentateuch*) formed *Adam*, and filled him with the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, that from him, as from a Fountain, all useful Arts and Sciences might flow unto his posterity; for besides the secret virtues of living Creatures, of Plants, of Stones, of Metals, and Minerals, he perfectly knew

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the influences of ſupernal Bodies, ſaith *Theoph. Gale.* And if *Adam* and his poſterity had perſevered in that ſtate of Heavenly wiſdom, innocency and ſincerity, in which he was created, here had been no defilements of Aſtrologers, Charmers, Conſulters with Familiar Spirits, Diviners, Inchanters, Magicians, Nicromancers, Obſervers of Times, Prognoſticators, Soothſayers, Sorcerers, Witches, Wizards, who all derive their power, and fooliſh infernal knowledge, from thoſe lying Lips, which ſeduced *Adam* and *Eve* from the Royal Court of the Lords bleſſed preſence, into the dead Sea of deluſions, and wicked eſtrangments from God.

Yea I ſay, if *Adam* and his poſterity had kept their ſtanding in Heavenly wiſdoms dominion, we had had no laſcivious Poems, no wanton Comedies, no vain Tragedies, no fooliſh Fables, no bewitching Orations, no ſpoiling Philoſophy, no Pagan Ethicks, Phyſicks, or Metaphyſicks, which are the infatuating dregs of the Helliſh dead Sea, the ſmoak of the bottomleſs Pit, as hereafter may more fully be touched.

About the tenth Generation after the Floud, *Abraham* the Father of the faithful, grew up among the *Caldeans*, in the ſaving knowledge of the Lord; he loved Heavenly wiſdom, and the products thereof, the Crea-

tion, ſo was a true Philoſopher; through Faith he obtained a good report, and among other things this record remains concerning him, *Shall I hide from Abraham*, ſaith the Lord, *the thing which I do*, &c. *For I know him, that he will command his children, and his houſhold after him, and they ſhall keep the way of the Lord, to do juſtice and judgment*, Gen. 18. 17, 18, 19. This was the ſum of *Abraham*'s Doctrine to his Family; this he, and the faithful Patriarchs taught, juſtifying Heavenly wiſdom, and the bleſſed order of it: Heatheniſm they kept out, through the ſhield of Faith; and who are of *Abraham*, they do the works of *Abraham*, and ſhun Heatheniſm.

Moſes grew up in the knowledge of the living God, and of the Creation; he loved the wiſdom that was from above, ſo was a true Divine Philoſopher. *Clemens Alexandrinus* wrote of him, that he was a Divine and a Prophet.

Now if any alledge, That *Moſes was learned in all the wiſdom of the Egyptians*, (that is, in prophane Arts and Sciences) *and was mighty in words and in deeds*, Acts 7. 22.

I anſwer, True it is, *Moſes* was ſo learned, which *Egyptian* learning (ſaith *Pererius*) was Pagan Mathematicks, Ethicks, Phyſicks, Metaphyſicks, a chief part whereof was

was Hieroglyphicks; but when he was to be concern'd for the living God, to go his Meſſage, ſee how his prophane Arts and Sciences, the *Egyptian* Hieroglyphicks, ſurthered him, he was mute, *Exod.* 4. 10, 11, 12. he ſaid to the Lord, *O my Lord, I am not eloquent:* The Lord ſaid unto him, *Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou ſhalt ſay.* Here he is drawn from the dirty puddle of prophane Arts and Sciences, *Egyptian* wiſdom, Pagan Metaphyſicks, Hieroglyphicks: In a word from thoſe lying lips, which deceived *Adam* and *Eve*, and all the inventions thereof, even to the mouth of God, the Well-ſpring of pure wiſdom, ſavoury knowledge, and ſound underſtanding. Thus *Moſes* being brought to that mouth, which taught *Adam* and *Eve* in the ſtate of innocency, he ſtreamed out Heavenly eloquence, ſaying, *My doctrine ſhall drop as the rain, my ſpeech ſhall diſtill as the dew, as the ſmall rain upon the tender herb, and as the ſhowers upon the graſs*, Deut. 32. 2. No prophane Arts nor Sciences, no *Egyptian* Mathematicks, no Hieroglyphicks, no Pagan Ethicks, Phyſicks or Metaphyſicks dropped out of his mouth.

Though *Moſes* was excellent in the wiſdom of the *Egyptians*, yet he hath left us nothing thereof in writing, nor encouraged any to learn the ſame: *Ambroſe* gives the reaſon

reaſon of this, becauſe he had received Gods Spirit, and Heavenly wiſdom thereby; ſo as Gods Servant was faithful in all his houſe, he preferr'd Heavenly Truth before vain Earthly Philoſophy, and concern'd himſelf only in things whoſe tendency were to the furtherance of Faith. *Trapp* on the *Acts*.

Further *Moſes* ſaid unto *Iſrael*, Exo 23.13. *In all things that I have ſaid unto you, be circumſpect, and make no mention of the names of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.* He preached not up *Egyptian* learning, nor the *Egyptian* gods, nor any gods of the Heathen, but to raze the memorial of them from off the face of the Earth, ſaying, *make no mention of the names of other gods*: but Schools and Colledges ſhew forth another Spirit, ringing with the names of *Mars*, *Bacchus*, *Apollo*, and multitudes more, which I forbear to mention.

Furthermore, *Moſes* ſpeaking of the Statutes, Judgments, and Commandments of the Lord, received from Heaven, for the edification of *Iſrael*, ſaid, *Ye ſhall teach them to your children; when thou ſitteſt in thine houſe, when thou walkeſt by the way, when thou lieſt down, when thou riſeſt up*, Deut. 11. 19. Here was Heavenly wiſdom, Statutes, Judgments and Commandments, received from the mouth of Eternity, to be taught to Children;

dren; not *Egyptian* Mathematicks, Hieroglyphicks, Ethicks, Phyſicks, Metaphyſicks, not laſcivious Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, ſpoiling Philoſophy, wherewith Schools and Colledges, though profeſſing Chriſtianity and Reformation, now abound. Further *Moſes* ſaid to *Iſrael*, *When thou art come into the Land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou ſhalt not learn to do after the abominations of thoſe Nations*, Deut. 18. 9. Now it is ſealed in my inward parts, that Heathen Poems, Pagan Philoſophy, fooliſh Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, &c. taught in the Schools of Chriſtendom, are abomination in the ſight of the Lord, though of high eſteem among men, and driven as it were *vi & armis*, by force of Arms into tender years.

Joſhua grew up in the pure knowledge of the Lord, received Heavenly wiſdom, walked in it, prized it above the Gold of *Ophir*, ſo was a true Philoſopher, God promiſed to be with him, as he was with *Moſes*, *Joſ.* 1. 5. he taught *Iſrael* not to be defiled with the abomination of the Heathen, nor to make mention of the names of their gods, *Joſ.* 23. ſo the Serpent and his inventions he fenced out: Schools and Colledges now profeſſing Chriſtianity, Scriptures and the Goſpel, teaching the abominable inventions of the Heathen, are not come

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to *Moſes*, who forbad theſe things, death reigns there.

I am eaſie to perſwade (ſaith *Theophilus Gale*) that the old *Egyptians* learned many things of *Joſeph*, concerning the Soul, and the originality, immateriality, immortality, and ſtate of it after death; and not only from him, but from the Patriarchs, and from the writings of *Moſes*, they received many things, which they ſtained with the excrements of their own inventions, as 'tis recorded. As for ſaving knowledge, pure underſtanding, ſound judgment, theſe are derived from the Lord, the Well-ſpring of life. After that *Joſeph* had given *Pharoah* advice, concerning the enſuing Famine, and other things, *Pharoah* prized him above all the Wiſe-men of *Egypt*, Sorcerers, Magicians, Inchanters, ſaying, *Can we find ſuch a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?* Further he ſaid unto *Joſeph*, *In as much as God hath ſhewed thee all this, there is none ſo diſcreet and wiſe as thou art*, Gen. 41. 38, 39. Thus the wiſdom and diſcretion received from the mouth of God, was preferr'd before wiſdom received otherwiſe.

Bezaleel was filled with the Spirit of God in wiſdom, in underſtanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanſhip, to work in Gold, and in Silver, and in Braſs, in cutting of Stones, in carving of Timber, for

for the building of the Tabernacle, *Exod.* 31. Thus he was qualified from Heaven, without Ethnick education, ſo was a true Philoſopher; implying, that ſuch as under the Evangelical diſpenſation, are appointed for the building up of the living Tabernacle, Sons or Daughters, their qualification for that work is from Heaven, and not from below.

Solomon, the Lord gave unto him a wiſe and underſtanding heart, whereby he knew the Lord, and had great underſtanding in the Lords Creation, without Ethnick education, he was a true Philoſopher, 1 *Kings* 3. 12. he builded the Temple, and overlaid it within with pure Gold, 1 *Kings* 6. What implies this? but that ſuch as under the Goſpel miniſtration, are prepared for the building up of the Spiritual Temple, be they Sons or Daughters, their preparation is of the Lord; and that he had a clear underſtanding of the Lords Creation, is demonſtrable from Scripture records, for he ſpake of Trees, from the Cedar tree that is in *Lebanon*, even unto the Hyſop that ſpringeth out of the Wall; he ſpake alſo of Beaſts, and of Fowl, and of creeping things, and of Fiſhes, 1 *Kings* 1. his wiſdom excelled all the wiſdom of the Eaſt-Country, and all the wiſdom of *Egypt*; ſo that the Queen of the South, whom the *Ethiopian* Chronicles call

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Mackeda, came from the uttermoſt parts of the Earth to hear the wiſdom of *Solomon*; who was ſo taken with the Heavenly wiſdom that dropped out of his mouth, that ſhe could have been content to have changed her Throne for his Foot-ſtool; he fed her not with Ethnick Serpentine wiſdom, but with what was Spiritual and Divine. *Trapp* on *Matth.* 12.

Jehoſhaphat taught no Pagan Philoſophy, no Heatheniſm, but the perfect Law, and pure Statutes of the Lord, the Lord was with him, 2 *Chron.* 17.

Ezra cauſed no Pagan Philoſophy, no Heatheniſm, no ſain wiſdom to be taught in *Iſrael*, to old or young; but going from *Babylon* to *Jeruſalem*, the good hand of God being upon him, he ſought the Law of the Lord, and taught the Statutes and Judgments of the Lord in *Iſrael*, *Ezra* 7. Now who neglect the wiſdom from above, and propagate Earthly Serpentine wiſdom, which is from below, ſuch are in *Babylon*, not come to the *Jeruſalem* which is above.

Job of the Land of *Uz*, perfect and upright, fearing God and eſchewing evil, he knew that his Redeemer lived in the wiſdom of his Redeemer; he knew the Lord, and ſaw much into the Creation of the Lord, ſo was a true and Divine Philoſopher. That he was wiſe in the Creation, it appears, he

ſpake

ſpake of Thunder, of Vapours, of Clouds, of Rain, of Snow, of Hail, of the Sea, of Fountains, of Metals, as Gold, Silver, Iron, Braſs, of Stones, of precious Stones, of ſubterraneous Fire, of Stars, of living Creatures, of Earthquakes, of *Arcturus*, *Orion*, and the *Pleides*, of the Sun, of the Heavens, *&c.*

Aſaph in the wiſdom of God, deſired that the pure Statutes and Judgments of the Lord, might be taught to Children, not the ways of the Heathen, *Pſal.* 58. 5, 6, 7. he made Covenant with *Jacob*, and gave *Iſrael* a Law, which he commanded our fore-fathers to teach their Children, that their poſterity might know it, and the Children which were yet unborn.

Iſaiah ſeaſoned with the inſpiration of the Almighty, prized the wiſdom from above; ſpeaking of the Plow-man, he ſaid, *God doth inſtruct him to diſcretion, and doth teach him*, Iſa. 28. So the Plow-man that is center'd in the fear of the Lord, is taught of the Lord diſcretion in his calling, without Heathen education. Yea, and propheſying of the glory of the Evangelical diſpenſation, he teſtified thus, *They ſhall not hurt nor deſtroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth ſhall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the ſea*, Iſa. 11. 9. Mark, here the knowledge of the Lord is preach'd up, that know-

knowledge which he teaches, which he accepts of: this ſhuts out the knowledge and wiſdom of this world, brought in by the old Serpent, the god of this world.

The living God gave knowledge and skill in all learning and wiſdom, unto *Daniel*, *Shadrach*, *Meſhach*, and *Abednego*; and *Daniel* had underſtanding in all Viſions and Dreams; and this was by the teaching of the Lord, without recourſe to Ethnick ſtudy and education, *Dan.* 1. the King found them ten times wiſer then all his Magicians and Aſtrologers.

What is the chaff to the wheat, ſaith the Lord? Jer. 23. 28. all products of the Serpent, all laſcivious Poems, wanton Comedies, vain Tragedies, frivolous Fables, ſpoiling Philoſophy, the wiſdom of the world, which is fooliſhneſs with God; theſe are but as Chaff, to be ſcattered by Chriſts Fan.

The *Jews* under the Moſaical diſpenſation, had Schools in every City and Province, built upon Hills, as Writers tell us; there is mention of the Hill *Moreh*, that is, the Hill of the Teacher, *Judg.* 7. 1. In theſe, while they kept the charge of the Lord, there was nothing taught but the knowledge of the Lord, and of his Creation: In theſe (ſaith *Theophilus Gale*) they taught the Prieſts and Levites their Offices, being choſen of God thereunto.

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In every Age and Generation, ſuch as were truly made alive unto God, they held out the wiſdom of God, as the only Soul-wiſhing treaſure, and bare teſtimony againſt the wiſdom of the fleſh, pernicious as the poyſon of Alps.

The fear of the Lord (ſaith *Solomon*) *is the beginning of wiſdom, and the knowledge of the holy is underſtanding*, Pro. 9. 10. and who come not to the beginning of wiſdom, the fear of the Lord, ſuch are ſtrangers to Heavenly wiſdom, and to the precious effects thereof; now as for laſcivious Poems, fooliſh Comedies, vain Tragedies, frivolous Fables, bewitching Orations, ſpoyling Philoſophy, taught in Chriſtian Schools; theſe proceeded from men not center'd in the fear of the Lord, the ſame is fooliſhneſs with God. The Law of thy mouth (ſaid the man of God) is dearer unto me then thouſands of Gold and Silver; Here wiſdom, knowledge and underſtanding, and ſound Judgement is prefer'd before earthly treaſures; mark this, it was the Law of the mouth of the Lord, that he thus prized, not earthly, ſenſual, and deviliſh wiſdom, the muddy and poyſonous ſtreams of the Serpent.

We read of certain Libertines, *Cyrenians*, *Alexandrians*, *Cilicians* and *Aſians*, puft up with the breath of the Serpents bellows, theſe in the wiſdom of the fleſh diſputed

with *Stephen*, who was in the wiſdom of the ſpirit *and they were not able to reſiſt the wiſdom and the ſpirit by which he ſpake*, Acts. 6. 9, 10. *Paul* held out nothing but Chriſt, and the ſame Serpentine wiſdom in Inſtruments of all ſorts, oppoſes and gainſays the inbreakings of Heavenly wiſdom, in this our Age, and many witneſſes raiſed out of the duſt, notwithſtanding on their feet in the Dominion of Truth; know that the Lord is now at work, and that the Myſtery of iniquity muſt be caſt out, not by outward Sword, Battle, Ax, or any Inſtruments of War, but by the breath of the Lords mouth, and by the brightneſs of his coming.

Paul though he was profound in natural Parts, Abilities, and acquired accompliſhments, yet when Chriſt was revealed in him, the Teacher of Heavenly wiſdom, at *Rome*, as at other places, he Preached the Kingdom of God, and the things which concerned the Lord Jeſus, and plentious redemption in him, not one word of Pagan Philoſophy, *Acts*. 28. 30, 31.

Furthet *Paul* who had the mind of Chriſt, he, at *Corinth* a City abounding with Philoſophers and Oratours, Preached up the wiſdom of God, and bare record againſt the wiſdom of the fleſh; Heathen Philoſophy, ſaying, we ſpeak wiſdom among them that are perfect, yet not the wiſdom of this world,

nor

nor of the Princes of this world, which comes to nought: Further ſaith he, *Which things alſo we ſpeak, not in the words which mans wiſdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghoſt teacheth,* 1 Cor. 1. *and* 1 Cor. 2. 6. 13.

Further, *Paul* ſpeaking of Chriſt, ſaid, *in him are hid all the treaſures of wiſdom and knowledge,* Coloſ. 2. 3. out of Chriſt, then there is no true wiſdom or ſolid comfort to be found, the depth ſaith, *it is not in me, the worlds Wizards cannot help any to it,* Jer. 8. 9. Lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord, and what wiſdom is in them? true it is, who rejected the in-dwelling word of Faith, of Patience, of Reconcilation, of Heavenly Wiſdom, there is no wiſdom in them, but unprofitable droſs of fooliſhneſs.

Now ſeeing all the treaſures of Wiſdom and Knowledge are in Chriſt, no part of this treaſure is left out, to inrich Heathen Philoſophy, which the Goſpel caſts out as a ſandy, dry, barren, deſolate and unprofitable thing, ſeeing theſe treaſures, all theſe treaſures are in Chriſt, the ſame then are to be ſought of, and in Chriſt, not as *Ariſtotle, Plato,* or any other of the worlds Philoſophers, being but broken Ciſterns, not holding the water of life, *Solomon* ſpoke feelingly; *the Lord gives wiſdom, out of his mouth comes knowledge and underſtanding,* Pro. 2. 6

While *Adam* ſtood to the Lords teaching.

with *Stephen*, who was in the wisdom of the spirit *and they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake*, Acts. 6. 9, 10. *Paul* held out nothing but Christ, and the same Serpentine wisdom in Instruments of all sorts, opposes and gainsays the inbreakings of Heavenly wisdom, in this our Age, and many witnesses raised out of the dust, notwithstanding on their feet in the Dominion of Truth; know that the Lord is now at work, and that the Mystery of iniquity must be cast out, not by outward Sword, Battle, Ax, or any Instruments of War, but by the breath of the Lords mouth, and by the brightness of his coming.

Paul though he was profound in natural Parts, Abilities, and acquired accomplishments, yet when Christ was revealed in him, the Teacher of Heavenly wisdom, at *Rome*, as at other places, he Preached the Kingdom of God, and the things which concerned the Lord Jesus, and plentious redemption in him, not one word of Pagan Philosophy, *Acts*. 28. 30, 31.

Furthet *Paul* who had the mind of Christ, he, at *Corinth* a City abounding with Philosophers and Oratours, Preached up the wisdom of God, and bare record against the wisdom of the flesh; Heathen Philosophy, saying, we speak wisdom among them that are perfect, yet not the wisdom of this world, nor

nor of the Princes of this world, which comes to nought: Further ſaith he, *Which things alſo we ſpeak, not in the words which mans wiſdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghoſt teacheth,* 1 Cor. 1. *and* 1 Cor. 2. 6. 13.

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While *Adam* ſtood to the Lords teaching.

he received the treaſures of Heavenly wiſdom, ſound knowledge and underſtanding, peace, joy, and conſolation as a ſtream; but turning aſide to the Serpents teaching, to his mouth, he left his Dominion in the Lord, his bleſſed State; and out of the Serpents mouth proceeded all wickedneſs, all fleſhly wiſdom, all frivolous Arts and Sciences now taught in Chriſtian Schools (ſo called:) ſo, who run to Pagan Philoſophers, as *Ariſtotle*, *Plato*, or any laſcivious Poet, Comedian, Tragedian, they revolt from Chriſt the treaſury of Heavenly wiſdom: *Who gives eternal life, and an everlaſting Inheritance, and run a Whoring after faln wiſdom, ſo are guilty of* Iſraels *ſin*, Jer. 2. 13. *Paul* was firſt brought up at the feet of *Gamaliel*, born in *Tarſus*, that had read *Aratus*, *Meander* and *Epimanides*, Authors, is clear by what he cited; but while he ſtood in the Ethnick mind, he was a grand perſecutor, idolized his Ethnick education; but Chriſt being revealed in him, the Store-houſe of Heavenly wiſdom, knowledge and underſtanding; then he accounted Ethnick Learniug as dung and droſs, *Phil.* 3. 7, 8. All his idolized, magnified, and highly prized Arts, Parts and Attainments, of faln wiſdom, he accounted but as dung, wiſdom from above being revealed; the Lord called *Paul* wiſe in naturals, and many that were ignorant

norant thereof to Preach the everlasting Gospel.

Further, *Paul* in the wisdom from above at the University of *Athens*, he reproved their Idolatry, Superstition and Heathenism; *he taught nothing but the living God, and Christ Jesus*, Acts 17. In the comprehending life, he saw these Philosophers, Epicureans, Stoicks, and withstood them; but they in the gloomy region of Heathenism saw not him, nor the Heavenly wisdom that he Preached, so called him a babler; yet he fought not in vain but conquered several, so prevailed, that many renounced their Pagan Philosophy, and curious Artists burned their Books of earthly Satanical wisdom; thus *Paul* in the Armour of righteousness disarmed these Pagan Philosophers, the Devils Champions, *and brought them to be* Sions *Converts to receive her Armour* Acts 19.

James one of the Lords worthies, writing to the twelve Tribes scattered, said, *if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally*, James 1. 5. He commends the ignorant to the Lord, not to *Aristotle*, *Plato*, nor to any other Pagan Philosopher.

Further, *James* the Apostle of the Lamb, describing the nature and quality of Heavenly wisdom, said, *the wisdom that is from*

above, is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easie to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisie, Jam. 3. 17. Now no other wisdom then this, was taught in the primitive Times, in Christian Churches and Schools, while the purifying, and Victory giving Faith, was kept: the wisdom of the world was Preached against as foolishness with God. Now whoever refuses Wisdom, Knowlege, and Understanding at the mouth of the Lord, such learn Foolishness, Ignorance, Carnal wisdom and wickedness at the mouth of the Serpent, and his wisdom, nothing that's good prospers under it.

CHAP. II.

Of the Rise and Progress of Serpentine Wisdom, that is the Wisdom of this World.

Adam was Created a noble Plant, a blessed Disciple, while obedient to the teaching of his Creatour, among many Pure, Heavenly, Sound, Savoury, and wholesom lessons, this was one; not to eat of, nor touch the forbidden Tree lest they die. Now the Serpent filled with subtilty, laboured, first

to

to beget *Eve* into a queſtioning of the verity of Gods Heavenly Doctrine; ſaying, Yea, hath God ſaid, *Ye ſhall not eat of every Tree of the Garden*; Secondly, the Serpent expreſsly contradicted Gods Heavenly Doctrine, ſaying, *Ye ſhall not truly die.* Thirdly, The Serpent informed *Eve*, that by touching and eating of that Tree, an advantage ſhould accrue thereby to them; *Ye ſhall be as Gods, knowing good and evil*, Gen. 3. the Serpent became prevalent, Gods teaching was rejected, the Serpents deadly Teachings and Inſinuations, Charms and Inchantments, were entertained, through this compliance; the Serpent got the Chair (as I may ſay) and became Teacher, than according to the Lords Heavenly word, death entered in upon them, even as a Conſumption ſeizes upon mans body gradually, in this compliance with the Serpent, a ſeed of enmity was ſown in mans heart, and from that ſeed ſprung another World, even a World of wickedneſs, ſavouring of the nature of the hellish ſeedſman; *Adam* had never been driven out of the Paradiſe of bleſſedneſs but that through the Serpent being his Teacher, he learned *to know good and evil*, (ſaith *Cornelius Agrippa* of the vanity of Sciences.)

While man kept his Station in the vertue of the ancient of days, he lived, moved, and had his being in him, he thought, ſpake,

and acted in him; Yea, his thoughts, words, and actions, were the thoughts, words, and actions of God, in him and through him; here was a bleſſed Sabbath, Chriſt ſaid unto his Diſciples, travelling unto the pleaſant Valley of *Adams* Innocency; *it is not ye that ſpeak, but the ſpirit of your Father which ſpeaketh in you*, Matth. 10. yea, and *Peter* an Apoſtle of the Lamb, bare Record; ſaying, *Holy men of God ſpake as they were moved by the Holy Ghoſt*, 2 Pet. 1. 21. So that all the Holy Patriarchs, Prophets, Apoſtles, Primitive Chriſtians, Children of Light, Children of the Day, who thought, ſpake and acted, in and through the vertue of the Lords preſence in them; their Language was the Language of the Lord, 'tis ſo now of what Nation, Kingdom or Countrey ſoever ſuch be, yet they are living wirneſſes of that Language promiſed by the Lord, who ſaid, *I will turn to the people a pure Language, that they may call upon the name of the Lord, to ſerve him with one conſent*, Zeph. 3. 9.

In like manner *Adam* back-ſliden from the Lord, and complying with the old Serpent, and deriving the ground of his thoughts, words and works, from the miry lake of his power, and his poſterity center'd in the gloomy region of the ſame, what proceeds from this helliſh conjunction, is the Language of the old Serpent, the Lan-

guage

guage of the beaſt, all wanton Poets, Comedians, Tragedians, painted Oratours, Pagan Philoſophers are here found, thus of *Bethel*, that is, the Houſe of God, man became *Bethaven*, that is, a Houſe of iniquity and vanity.

Thus the Serpent prevailing, and his Kingdom increaſing, his helliſh Pills (as I may ſay) being ſwallowed, man was wrought out of his right courſe and diſpoſition, hence iſſued a numberleſs number of internal Diſeaſes.

As in a corporal Impoſthume, purulent and foul matter is gathered together in ſome part of the body; ſo through joyning with the Serpent, purulent and foul matter of ſin, iniquity, tranſgreſſion, ſatanical Arts and Inventions are brought forth, whereby the Sons and Daughters of men are defiled.

As in an external Atrophy or Conſumption, the body through the want of due and convenient nutriment, by little and little pines way; ſo through complying with the Serpent, the mouth of faith came, and comes to be ſhut, which receives ſpiritual nouriſhment, which not being received, ſpiritual leanneſs ſtept, and ſtept in, yea a ſpiritual Conſumption.

As in a corporal Lethargie, there is an unſatiable propenſity to ſleepineſs, drowſineſs and

and forgetfulneſs; ſo *Adam* not keeping his Heavenly Dominion in his Maker, but attending to the evil one, was thereby brought into a ſpiritual Lethargy into a ſleepy, drowſie, and forgetful ſtate this was *Iſraels* which occaſioned the Lords complaint; *my people have forgotten me days without number*, Jer. 2. 32.

As through a depraved Appetite, wholſom nouriſhment is refuſed, nonconvenient, unprofitable, and Noxious things are deſired; even ſo the mind being carnalized Heavenly wiſdom, Bread of life, Water of life, Honey out of the Rock, the food of the ſoul is loathed, and ſpoiling Philoſophy, Satanical Arts, Parts and endowments; in a word, the wiſdom that is from below, is unſatiably ſought after.

Adam entring the barren Borders of Sataniſm, from a Helliſh Lake, in the increaſe of that Kingdom, collected, guſhed out a muddy ſtream of Diabolical Arts, pernicious inventions, and Artiſts; hence came the ungodly Aſtrologers, who from the obſervation of the Heavens, take upon them to foretel, what good or evil ſhall betide Men, States, Perſons, People, ſo to determine things of future contingence.

Thence crawled out Charms, who uſe Verſes, Words, Ceremonies, Spells, to produce their deſired ends, as to heal, or hurt people, young or old. Hence

Hence crawled out Diviners, Wizards, who by a Diabolical Spirit take upon them to preſage or foretel things to come.

Hence crawled out obſervers of Times, who ſuperſtitiouſly make difference of days and times, as good or bad, lucky or unlucky as they ſay, for the doing of ſuch a work, or undertaking a Journey, or appointing times for the doing of things.

Hence crawled out the Conſulters of Familiar Spirits, this was *Sauls* ſin, who ſought to a woman that had a Familiar Spirit; for which tranſgreſſion the Lord brought this heavy Judgment upon him.

Hence crawled out Inchanters, who by obſerving the events of things, gather ſigns of good or evil, luck, (as they ſay) to themſelves or others, and who by ſecret ſlights and juglings, deceive or delude the eye-ſight.

Hence crawled out Witches, Sorcerers, having dealings with the Devil by compact or confedracy, changing any thing before the ſight, by a Diabolical power.

Hence crawled out Necromancers, ſpeaking to the dead, or to the Devil in the form of the dead, making inquiry of the ſame, as *Saul* did.

Hence crawled out the Magician, who through covenant with Satan is skild in Magick Art.

Hence

Hence ſprung in the Monthly Prognoſticatours, taking upon them to foretell the occurrents of each Month.

Hence crawled out Southſayers, who from the obſervation of the skie, or flight of Birds, take upon them to foretel things to come.

Hence came in Stargazers, pretending knowledge of future events, by the obſervation of the courſes and conjunction of the Stars; theſe Artiſts were firſt found among the Heathens, after crept into *Iſrael*, though expreſsly forbidden by the Lord, and are found alſo as it is ſaid, among the profeſſors of Chriſtianity.

The Idolatrous *Egyptians* were great practitioners of Divination, who (as Writers affirm) firſt of all derived their Divination from the four Elements; ſome Divined from the obſervation of Fire; hence Pyromancy.

Some Divined by the Air; hence Æromancy.

Some Divined by Water; hence Hydromancy.

Some Divined by the Earth; hence Geomancy.

After this, wickedneſs and Satanical skill increaſing, a further progreſs was made; For,

Some Divined by Fiſh; hence Icthuomancy.

Some

Some Divined by Herbs; hence Botanomancy.

Some Divined by Figs; hence Sycomancy.

Some Divined by Eggs; hence Oomancy.

Some Divined by Rods; hence Rabdomancy.

Some by the crowing of Cocks; hence Alectrimancy.

Some by She-goats; hence Aigomancy.

Some Divined by Dreams; hence Oneiromancy.

Some Divined by Inſenſe; hence Libanomancy.

Some by Water in a Baſon; hence Licanomancy.

Some Divined by Smoak; hence Capnomancy.

Some Divined by the Bay-tree; hence Daphnomancy.

Some Divined by Wax; hence Ceromancy.

Some by the lines of the Hands; hence Chiromancy.

Some Divined by Sieve and Shears; hence Coſciomancy.

This kind of Divination is (as 'tis ſaid) much in uſe now in the Northern parts, by the frequenters of Horſe Courſes and Foot Races.

Some Divined by an Ax; hence Axinomancy.

Some Divined by Lots; hence Cleromancy.

Some

Some by the inſpection of Flour; hence Alphitomancy.

Some Divined and gave anſwers out of their Bellies; hence Gaſtromancy. Some Divined by the obſervation of Birds, ſome by the entrails of Beaſts, ſome of theſe, (if not many,) are crept in among the profeſſors of Chriſtianity. *Solomon* knew what he ſaid, when he ſaid, *God made man upright, but they have ſought out many Inventions*, Eccleſ. 7.

From the very ſame ground iſſued in Idolatry, Superſtition, damnable Hereſies, pernicious Schiſms, ſtrong Deluſions, perverſe Diſputings, vagrant and wandring Deſires, fruitleſs Janglings, inconvenient Jeſtings, ſinful oppoſitions of Sciences, Inchanting Orations, feigned Purgatory, dreamed of by *Plato* the Philoſopher, and *Virgil* the Heathen Poet, defended by many in the Apoſtaſie.

Thus you ſee the wiſdom of God being rejected, and the wiſdom of the old Serpent, and his Teaching being entertained, what Helliſh Artiſts and Arts, what ungodly and unlawful Inventions, what ſtrange and ſoul-deſtroying Doctrines, are crept into the Stage of the World; what an Eclipſe is come upon the Sons and Daughters of men; but the Sun of righteouſneſs is riſen, and riſing with an effectual healing vertue, whereby the foggy exhaltation of ſin, iniquity,

quity, and tranſgreſſion of wicked Arts, and frivolous inventions, ſhall be ſcourged away.

CHAP. III.

Of the Riſe and Progreſs of Pagan Philoſophy, Worldly wiſdom crept in among the profeſſors of Chriſtianity, and Teſtimonies of the Holy men of God againſt the ſame.

PAgans of ſeveral Nations, deſirous of wiſdom, to ſome ſtraps of *Moſes* relating to Morals, Naturals and Supernaturals, added the corrupt ingredients of their own Inventions and imaginations; ſo patch up their Ethicks, Phyſicks, and Metaphyſicks, ſo triumphed in the ſplendor of their wiſdom, and gained great eſteem thorough the ſame, and were (as I may ſay) pointed at by the fingers of others, aud were called *Magi*, that is, wiſemen, whatſoever (ſaith *Andrew Sympſon*) *Orpheus Homer, Solon, Pythagoras, Plato*, and other Grecians, Philoſophers, Poets, Hiſtorians, have left in Record, concerning God and Divine things, they took all out of the Books

Books of *Moſes*, whereunto they added the intermixture of their own Inventions and imaginations, depraved and wreſted the ſame, *Augnſt. de Civit. Dei*, to ſay the beſt Rabbins, and Philoſophers ſaith *Trap*; *ſunt bona miſta malis, ſunt mala miſta bonis*, that is to ſay in them, good is mixed with evil, and evil with good.

The Greeks through this py-bal wiſdom were called Sophoi, that is, wiſemen; now *Pythagoras* refuſed that Title as too ambitious, and peculiar to *Ens Entium*, the being of beings, God alone, and in way of modeſty he called himſelf *Philoſophos*, that is, a Lover of wiſdom; which Title *Socrates*, *Plato* and others aſſumed, in imitation of theſe Greeks, the Romans called ſuch *Philoſophy*, and imitation of the Romans; in the Engliſh *Orthography*, ſuch are called Philoſophers, that is, Lover of wiſdom; hence came the Philoſophy of the *Egyptians*, *Phenicians*, *Caldeans*, *Phrygians*, *Lybians*, *Ethiopians*, *Scithians*, *Thracians*, *Perſians*, *Indians*, *Brachmans*, *Spaniards*, *Italians*, *Greeks*, *Druides*, of *Pythagoras*, *Socrates*, *Plato*, *Ariſtotle*, of the *Cynicks*, *Stoicks*, *Scepticks*, *Epicureans*; theſe ſay, and many others, received their Philoſophy; from the writings of *Moſes*, by them depraved and wreſted, adding the dregs of their own opinions, inventions and imaginations they re-

received of these things also, one from another.

And of the agreement or rather disagrement of the Pagan Philosophers among themselves, Writers are not silent, for not being content with Logomachy, that is, Verbal altercation; they fell at length to Dagger drawing one against another, *Johan. Franc. Pic. Mizand.*

Of the absurd opinions of Pagan Philosophers, as of their Magicks Southsayings, Conjurings, casting of Nativities, their Doctrine of the worlds Eternity, of the Souls Mortality, of the transmigration of the Soul from one body into another, of like temperament and quality, I forbear further to particularise.

How Pagan Philosophy. Arts and Languages, called Hand-maids to Divinity, have been and are courted, embraced and entertained Heavenly wisdom, the Mistress, hath been and is sleighted, *the wise in heart understand:* the Egyptians (saith *Theophilus Gales*) so pursued the study of the Mathematicks, that the Title of Prophet, Priest, or wiseman, was allowed to none, but such as were profoundly instructed therein before. Now how spoiling Philosophy, Tongues, Ethnick Arts, natural endowments and qualifications, are doted upon among the Professors of Christianity is evident, in that, who without

qualifications are fitted by the Lord, for the work of the Miniſtry, they are branded as Hereticks, and perſecuted.

It was a ſaying of *Salomon*, *Take away the droſs from the Silver, and there ſhall come forth a Veſſel for the finer*, Pro. 25. 4. Now if the intermixture of Paganiſm, ſpoiling Philoſophy, Satanical Arts; in a word, the wiſdom of the fleſh, which is fooliſhneſs with God, were ſcoured away, and Heavenly wiſdom in its primitive purity in Schools and Churches were reſtored; happy would the Nations be, which in meaſure was attempted; for in the School of *Alexandria*, an Eclecktick Sect flouriſhed, ſo called, becauſe it Selected and picked out the choice parts of Philoſophy, out of all Sects, this laudable attempt was undertaken by men accounted eminent, *Potamon*, *Plutarch*, *Ammonius* and other Philoſophers, with what iſſue and ſucceſs a concluſion may be drawn, for that ſomuch of the droſs of Satanical Art, carnal reaſon, inventions and imagination remains, as that it yet remains, ſpoiling Philoſophy; *Corruptio optimi fit peſſima*, that is, beſt things corrupted, become the worſt. *Theophilus Gale* adviſes well, that all the placets, or opinions of Philoſophers, ſhould be brought to be tryed by the holy Scriptures, that there it may appear, what ſhould be imbraced, and what ſhould be rejected.

Man

Man in the beauty of his Innocency was to eye the Lord, and in his Spirit, the Creation, the products of the Lords power and wisdom, for all serious, solid, sound and justifiable knowledge, relates to the essentiality of God, and to the Creation, the products of his power, and to useful and necessary concerns; herein appears true wisdom, primitive Philosophy: *Plato* though an Ethnick, through a Divine spark, or through the writings of *Moses*, in that spark bouldly and truly called, the knowledge of God, the true Philosophy, how (saith *Epinomondas*) can God be the Author of all good, if he be not the Authour of the chiefest good, that is, wisdom.

The Serpent being prevalent, disjoynted, dislocated; that is, wrested man out of his blessed State, and center'd him in his own power, whence issued into the world, a muddy stream of earthly wisdom, inventions, and Idolatry; the posterity of *Noah*, (saith *Theophilus Gale*) degenerating from the pure Philosophy, that is, wisdom of the Patriarchs, plunged into the bottomless pit, of diabolical Astrology, and Idolatry; for in their contemplation of Cœlestial bodies, the feeling of the Creatour being lost, they were first of all hurried to the admiration of them, afterwards to the adoration of them; so those glorious Creatures being lifted up into the

throne of the Creatour, became the object of monſtrous Idolatry, *Rom.* 1. 21. *Deut.* 4. 19. *Job.* 31. 26, 27.

Geographers affirm that the Valley in which *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* were built, was full of ſaltiſh and bituminous pits; the Lake *Aſphaltites*, called alſo, *Mare Mortuum* that is, the dead Sea, becauſe the very Fiſh cannot live in its foul groſs waters, yea; anp Birds flying over it were ſmothered and killed by its exhalations: *Adam* as Created of the Lord, was a fruitful Valley, plentious, infragrant, odoriferous, aromatical, balſamical fruits, ſhewing forth the regency of the Lambs life in him, cloſing with the deadly whiſpers of the Serpent, a muddy Lake (as I may ſay) guſhed into the world, whoſe exhalations are pernicious, this may ſpiritually be called the dead Sea; none can live to God, to righteouſneſs, in that which the Devil brings in, in the putred or rottten ſtock old *Adam*, all die, in Chriſt is life.

Obj. We read Philoſophers, becauſe many good moral ſayings are in them, and we learn natural Arts to qualifie and enable us, for the underſtanding of Heavenly things.

Anſ. 'Tis recorded in Scripture, *that Chriſt is the true light, that lighteth every man that cometh into the world*, Joh. 1. 9. Pagan Philoſophers, as well as others, I (ſaid *Du Hamel*) aſcent unto the Platoniſts, that mens minds

minds are enlightened with a Divine light; ſo every man hath in himſelf the ground of morality, which man turning from within, and fetching in from without, he continues in Clouds of darkneſs, and an Eclipſe in the world of his heart, what the Philoſophers ſpoke from that, is ſound and good, but through a now perſeverance in it, intermixtures entred in, and what proceeded from the mind thus carnalized, was ſpoiling Philoſophy; *Corruptio optimi fit peſſima*, as before; yea, and the ſame *John* bare Record, ſaying, *the light ſhined in darkneſs and the darkneſs comprehended it not*, John. 1. 5. this non-comprehenſion of Pagan Philoſophers, as well as of others, ſo far prevailed, that they could in no wiſe comprehend the ſparks of Divine light, which ſhined in the darkneſs of their hearts, but unjuſtly, and wickedly, reſiſted, reſtrained, and oppoſed the ſame, *Rom.* 1. 18, 19. *&c.*

And natural Arts, Parts, Endowments, Languages, Accompliſhments, cannot reveal the knowledge of Heavenly things; *Canſt thou* (ſaid *Zophar*) *by ſearching find out God?* Job. 11. 7, *&c. No man knows the Father ſave the Son, and he to whom the Son reveals him*, Matth. 11. 27. and *Paul*, who was eminent in Tongues, natural in Parts and Abilities, and knew what Key opened into the rich Cabinet of Heavenly wiſdom,

and Treaſures, he excluded natural Arts, and Parts to be that Key, ſaying expreſsly, *the natural man receives not the things of the ſpirit of God, &c. neither can he know them, becauſe they are ſpiritually diſcerned, 1 Cor.* 2. 14. God and the things of God, are known in and by the ſpirit, this ſpirit *Paul* Preaches up, not natural Arts, Parts, and Tongues; *Plato* a Heathen Philoſopher, ſaid well, vertue is not acquired but infuſed of God, a natural man though he have mounted to the Turret of Philoſophick elevations, and may profeſs himſelf to be a great Sophiſt, that is, wiſeman; yet he is ignorant of the ſaving knowledge of the Lord, which only comes by the teaching of the Lord, *Rom.* 1. 22. *Acts* 17. 18, 23. 1 *Cor.* 2. 14.

Holy men of God, inſpired of God, taught of God, repleniſhed with the vertue, influence, and ſweetneſs, of Heavenly wiſdom, in the Patriarchal, Moſaical, and Evangelical diſpenſations, juſtified the ſame, and in it, by it, and through it, grew in clearneſs of underſtanding, diſtinguiſhing perſons, ſo bare Teſtimoy againſt the old Serpent, and all his products, his ſpoiling Philoſophy, wiſdom of the fleſh, introduced into the world, by thoſe lying lips, that ſeduced *Adam* and *Eve*, from their bleſſed being and welbeing in the Lord.

Certain Philoſophers of the *Epicureans* and

and of the *Stoicks*, in wiſdom of the Serpent, encountred *Paul*, who was partaker of Divine wiſdom, and called him a babler, *Acts* 17. 18. and how the Divine wiſdom revealed in the lovers of ſimplicity, is entertained by Philoſophers now; this Nation and others afford many examples, yet the wiſdom of the living God, who are of God, cannot but contend for, the pure wiſdom of the rock of Ages; who ſaid, *Heaven is my Throne, and Earth is my Foot ſtool*, Act. 7. 49. there are as Schools diſtinguiſh, *Bona throni*; the Treaſures of Heaven, Chriſt the repoſitory of pure, ſoul-ſaving, ſoul-refreſhing, life-giving wiſdom, and knowledge, and there are *Bona Scabelli*, that is, the fruits and riches of the Earth; now the carriage and deportment of multitudes is ſuch, that their very life ſpeaks, that *Earth is their Throne, and Heaven their Foot-ſtool*; hot in the purſuit of the Earth, the pleaſures and delights thereof, ſlighting the pearl of Heavenly wiſdom; the Duke of *Alva* ſaid, he had ſo much to do on Earth, that he had no time to look after Heaven: *Trapp* ſaith, the frame of the ſpirits of men, beſpeaks them to be thus minded, complying rather with the Divinity of *Sardanapalus*, *Ede, bibe, lude, poſt mortem nulla voluptas*, then with the Doctrine of Chriſt, who ſaid, *learn of me*: the beforementioned *Epicureans*, were a

Sect of Philoſophers, ſo called from *Epicurus*, who was born in *Athens*, and lived in the time of *Alexander* the Great, *Ptolomy*, *Lagus* and *Philadelphus*, he held that the world came of the Atomes, or Motes in the Sun, that the Souls dye with the Bodies, that there is no providence, that worldly pleaſure is the *Summum bonum*, the chiefeſt good; theſe with others, Philoſophers reſiſted *Paul.*

Paul writing to the beloved of God, in *Rome* called to be Saints, bare this Record, relating to the wiſdom of the fleſh, and to the wiſdom of the Spirit, *Rom.* 8. 6. to be carnally minded is death, which being truly tranſlated is thus, the wiſdom, deſire, or mind of the fleſh is death; but the wiſdom, deſire, or mind of the ſpirit, is life, and peace; the wiſdom of the fleſh is death, and is not ſpoiling Philoſophy, laſcivious Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, frivolous Fables, Inchanting Orations, the Subject taught in Schools and Colledges of the wiſdom of the fleſh; I ſay yes, and that they are death, and tend to Bind and Fetter Men in Chains of darkneſs, in the Dungeon of death, but the wiſdom of the ſpirit gives the ſimple a reſidence in the fragrant Chamber of life and peace.

Paul further Teſtified to the Sanctified at *Corinth*, ſaying, Chriſt ſent me not to baptize, but

but to preach the Goſpel, not with wiſdom words, leaſt the Croſs of Chriſt ſhould be made of none effect; for it is written, *I will deſtroy the wiſdom of the wiſe:* Here the Serpents wiſdom, affected eloquence, pompous and painted ſpeech, attained by ſatanical inſpiration, orhumane acquiſition, by Study, peruſal of Heathen Authors, is decryed, not wiſdom of words, (ſaith he(leaſt the Croſs of Chriſt, the door through which pure, Divine, Heavenly wiſdom enters the Tabernacle of mans heart, ſhould be made of none effect; Further ſaith he, the world by wiſdom knew not God, neither doth the world by its wiſdom now know God; to what purpoſe then are Youth and others ſo toiled, for the attainment of that, which is fooliſhneſs in the account of God, and brings not to his knowledge, 1 *Cor.* 1. 17, 19, 20.

Again, this clear-ſighted Apoſtle of the Lamb, through Divine eye-ſalve, diſtinguiſhing between the grounds, natures and effects, of the wiſdom from above, and the wiſdom from below; ſaith on this wiſe, *We ſpeak wiſdom among them that are perfect, yet not the wiſdom of this world, nor of the Princes of this world, that come to nought; but we ſpeak the wiſdom of God in a Myſtery, which none of the Princes of this world knew; for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory: which things alſo we ſpeak,* (ſaith he)

he) *not in the words which mans wiſdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth*, 1 Cor. 2. 6, 7, 8, 13. Further he ſaith, *the Natural man knows not the things of the ſpirit of God, becauſe they are ſpiritually diſcerned*, 1 Cor. 2. 14. The Natural man though mounted to the very Zenith of Philoſophick notions, and ſtored with the quinteſſence of fleſhes wittineſs, which in very deed is wickedneſs, filled as a well loaded Veſſel, with acquired Arts, and Parts; yet being a natural man, darkened with the ſmoak of carnal wiſdom, in that State he cannot receive the wiſdom which is from above; in his eye it is fooliſhneſs, the world and its wiſdom is a pearl in his eye, the harmleſs Dove of Heavenly wiſdom enters in at another window, the Croſs of Chriſt, fooliſhneſs to them that periſh.

Further, the faithful Embaſſador, and true witneſs *Paul*, in the wiſdom of God bare Record, againſt the wiſdom of the world; ſaying, *The wiſdom of this world is fooliſhneſs with God*, 1 Cor. 3. 19 *Adam* in the wiſdom of God, knew God, and the Creation; Now the Serpent by his inſinuations; working man into a compliance with his will, brought in a Sea of iniquity and confuſion, a world of unrighteouſneſs, and a wiſdom ſavouring of his Nature, now ſpoiling Philoſophy,

In-

Inchanting Orations, wanton Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, are a part of of his wiſdom, taught in Schools and Colledges, ſo is fooliſhneſs with God, though highly eſteemed among men; *yet are they abomination in the ſight of God*, Luke 16. 15. I am brought into the credence of this, that as the rays of the Sun of righteouſneſs are diſplayed in man, as Heavenly wiſdom is exalted, as Nations become ſeaſoned with the ſalt of the Kingdom, theſe abominations will become burdenſom; yea and rejected as a Menſtrous Cloath; then ſhall Compoſers, Printers, Correctors, Stichers, Binders, Stationers, School-Maſters, Tutors, in Colledges, that have Traded in this dead Sea, dregs of Sataniſm, turn from their unlawful concerns, as the evil thereof is diſcovered, and juſtifie the wiſdom that is from above.

Further, this faithful Steward *Paul*, writing to the Saints and faithful Brethren at *Colloſſe*, exhorted them, ſaying, *Beware leaſt any man ſpoil you through Philoſophy and vain deceipt, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Chriſt*, Coloſ 2. 8. thus who keep not in Chriſt, the wiſdom of the Father, but lend an ear to the Pagan Philoſophick notions of falſe teachers, they are led by them out of the right path, bound and Captives; thus *Paul* in

in the wiſdom from above, cautions them to beware of wiſdom from below.

Again, *Paul* writing to *Timothy* his own Son in the Faith, exhortshim, to charge ſome, *not to give heed to Fables, and endleſs genealogies, which miniſter queſtions, rather then godly edyfyiug, which is fatih*, 1. Tim. 1. 3, 4. Now what a muddy ſtream of Fables and fabulous Poems, Comedies, and Tragedies, are guſhed into Chriſtian Schools, how the fabulous Pedegrees of the Heathens Gods, are (as I may ſay) driven by force of Arms into tender youth, hopeful, if not depraved and corrupted by Ethnick education, I leave to the wiſe in heart to Judge, who have known theſe things and the burden of them; further he ſaith to *Timothy*, *refuſe prophane and old wives Fables, and exerciſe thy ſelf unto godlineſs*, 1 Tim. 4. 7.

The Apoſtle *James* writing to the twelve Tribes, ſcattered abroad, draws his Sword (as I may ſay) againſt Serpentine wiſdom, ſaying, *if ye have bitter envying, and ſtrife in your hearts*, &c. *This wiſdom deſcends not from above, but is earthly, ſenſual, deviliſh*, James 1. 14, 15. Mark, earthly, ſenſual, deviliſh, O that Chriſtendom would conſider this, in whom the helliſh ſpark hath not only kindled them into ſtrife and envy, but to be as a prey to the mouth of the Sword; Chriſtendom is become as *Golgotha*, a place of

of Skulls, as *Aceldama*, the Field of Blood; the Apoſtle writing to the Church, ſaid, *ye are taught of God to love one another*, 1 Theſ. 4. Now where ſtrife, envy, and bloodſhed is, of whom are they taught? even of the Serpent, who was a Murderer from the beginning, the Author of that wiſdom, which is earthly, ſenſual and deviliſh, a true Character of that wiſdom which is from below; it is called earthly, becauſe it ariſes from the earth, keeps man in an unregenerate ſtate, out of Heavenly mindedneſs, wholly concerning man for earthly ends, ſenſual, as wholly concerned in the purſuit of carnal, ſinful and tranſient pleaſures, deviliſh, as inſpired by him, doing his work, and brings to his end, wiſdom from above Reſcues from his tyranny.

In the Apoſtles days, ſuch as knew the Lords call into the Miniſtry, they were Stars in Heaven, ſetled in Heavenly places in Chriſt Jeſus, they had the Heavenly Key, which opened to them the Royal Cabinet of Heavenly Treaſures, they received no wiſdom, in Church or School, but what was Heavenly; but a Star being faln to the earth; Mark this, to the earth, then an earthly Key was thruſt into the hand, even the Key of the bottomleſs Pit; then aroſe a Smoak Which darkned the Sun and the Air, what is this Smoak? even Serpentine wiſdom which

ſteamed

ſteamed into Churches and Schools, the gradual riſe of this, ſpoiled the glory and beauty of Primitive Chriſtianity; at this door crept into the Church Traditions, Hereſies, Scyſms, Doctrinal errours, Superſtition, Idolatry, Pardons, Indulgences, Trentals, Soul-maſſes, Dirgies, Purgatory, Canonization of Saints; In a word, deviliſh errors were ſet a broach, *Mahomet* ſteamed out his *Alcoran* for Divine Scriptures, into Schools ſteamed alſo in ſpoiling Philoſophy, bewitching Orations, pompous and painted Rhetorick, laſcivious Poems, vain Comedies, fooliſh Tragedies, frivilous Fables, Pagan Ethicks, Phyſicks and Metaphyſicks, whereby Youth is corrupted, as the Sea Monſter called *Phyſeter*, as naturaliſts write, mounts above the tops of Ships, ſtanding upright in the Sea, like a Pillar, and ſpouts out great flouds of water, whereby it overwhelms or indangers them; ſo upon the fall of the Star from Heaven, the Sea-Monſter Satan, got up into the Church and, ſpouted out great flouds of errors, falſe Doctrines, and of earthly wiſdom into Schools and Churches, whereby they ſunk down into the depth of ignorance, ſpiritual blindneſs, Idolatry and corruption, but Heavenly wiſdom is diſplaying its power, vertue and influence, and Serpentine wiſdom, be it in Church or School, muſt be ſcoured away.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

A rehearſal of Teſtimonies, born by ſeveral men eminent in the Church, ſince the Apoſtles days, againſt Heathen learning, or the teaching of it, in Chriſtian Schools, as alſo of others.

BY what hath been ſpoken 'tis evident, that the holy men of God, acknowledged by all to be inſpired of God, bare ſound Record and a living Teſtimony in the wiſdom of God, againſt the wiſdom of the Serpent, the wiſdom of the World; many alſo who have lived ſince the Apoſtles days, yea and ſince the fall of the Star from Heaven, in the gloomy night of Apoſtaſie, in that meaſure of Heavenly wiſdom then made known, have born Teſtimony againſt teaching Heathen Authors, ſpoiling Philoſophy, wanton Poets in Chriſtian Schools or Colledges; Yea, and have ſpoken freely againſt Univerſities defiled with the ſame, in confirmation of this aſſertion a few Teſtimonies are preſented to the conſideration of the Reader.

Euſebius brings in *Plato*, ſharply blaming that firſt Education, as deſtructive, which was

was uſed by the Greeks, in reading the feigned Comical and Tragical inventions of Poets, *Cap.* 49. *p.* 418.

As far as I can gather from the writings of the Ancients, Philoſophy is very hurtful unto him that is much addicted to the ſtudy, thereof, *Joh. Pic. Mirand.*

All the diſcord of Divines, hath proceeded from Philoſophers, for as much as Divines in later Ages, have mixed the muddy water of Philoſophers with the living vein of Divine Oracles, *Joh. Pic. Mirand.* that is, have mixed Heathen Philoſophick Notions, with the Scriptures of truth: It is known by lamemtable experience, how dangerous a thing it is, to be exerciſed in the writings of Ethnick Philoſophers, and how eaſily the plague of lies, and vanity creeps through the ſame into mens minds *Theo. Gale.*

In the times of the *Haſmoneans*, this Decreee made, let him be accurſed, who teacheth his Son the Philoſophy of the Greeks, *Theo. Gale.*

What but Greek Philoſophy, was the firſt Seminary or ſeed-Plot of principle Errors, in the Churches in the Apoſtles days, and in Churches immediately ſucceeding. Whereupon *Tertullian* called Philoſophers the Patriarchs of Hereticks, *The. Gale.*

It is not hard to ſhew (ſaith the ſame Authour) that the whole Myſtery of iniqui-

ty,

ty, and the whole Syſtem of Antichriſtianiſm, which hath moleſted the Chriſtian Church, for ſo many Centuries, ought to aſcribe their riſe and progreſs to Heathen Philoſophy.

There are (ſaith *Andrew Sympſon*) who ſpend much precious time upon vile Pamphlets, curious Arts, prophane Stories, laſcivious Poems, *&c.*

Moſt of the Hereſies that have been in the Church, have come in by Learned men, rather then by Ignorant men. *Ed. Calamy.*

Jerome a Father of the Church, who lived about the year 384. reading the Book of *Cicero*, was (as 'tis ſaid) rebuked by an Angel, becauſe that he being a Chriſtian, minded the Fictions of the Gentiles. *Jacobus Laurentius de libr. Gentil. pag.* 41.

Gratian put out a Canon, that a Biſhop ſhould not read Heathen Books. *Jac. Laur. pag.* 41.

Gregory the Great (ſaith *Jac. Laurentius de libris Gentilium*) forbad all Biſhops the reading of Heathen Books. *pag.* 41.

Pernicious Books are to be burned, no regard is to be given to the price of them. *Piſcat.* on *Acts.*

All the wiſdom of a man is in this one thing, that he know and worſhip Chriſt. *Lactant. lib.* 3. *cap.* 30.

Ulpian the chief Lawyer, *Galen* the chief

Phyſician, *Porphiry* the chiefeſt *Ariſtotelian*, *Plotinus* the chiefeſt *Platoniſt*, were profeſs'd enemies to Chriſt, and his Truth. *Trapp.*

Auguſtin Biſhop of *Hippo* in *Africa*, about the year 399. ſaid, the unlearned take Heaven by force, but we with our learning are thruſt into Hell.

It repented *Auguſtin*, that when he was young, he had preached more to pleaſe, then to profit others.

Neither the *Jews* by their profound Doctors, nor the *Gentiles* by their Wits and Wizards, could grope out God. *Trapp* on 1 *Cor.* 1. 21.

The *Greeks* ſought after wiſdom, *viz.* of this World, ſo ſhut out Heavenly wiſdom; *Intus exiſtens prohibet alienum*, they attained not what they ſought. *Trapp* on 1 *Cor.* 1. 22.

We that have obtained the knowledge of God, by and through his Grace, are far more Wiſe and more bleſſed then *Plato*, *Ariſtotle*, *&c. Piſcat.* on 1 *Cor.* 1.

In a natural man there is an impotency, that is, want of power to know and underſtand ſpiritual things. *Piſcat.*

Wiſdom that is of the Fleſh, ſerves the Worldling (as the Oſtrich wings) to make him out-run others upon Earth, and in Earthly things, but helps him never a whit towards Heaven. *Trapp* on the *Corinth.*

Con-

Conſtantius the Emperor ſuſpecting *Julian*'s proneneſs to Paganiſm, ſent him to be carefully grounded in Chriſtianity to *Nicomedia*; but he frequented by ſtealth the company of *Libanius* and *Iamblichus*, Philoſophers, who warped him wholly to their bent, which brake out afterwards. *Trapp* on *Coloſ.* 2.

In the year 220. the *Artemonites*, a certain kind of Hereticks, corrupted Scripture out of *Ariſtotle* and *Theophraſtus*, turning all into Queſtions, as afterwards School-men did, that evil generation of Dunghill Divines, as one calleth them. *Trapp* on *Coloſ.* 2.

The *Gentiles* could not be ſaved by their Philoſophy, without Chriſt; and yet not only the Divines of *Cullen*, ſet forth a Book concerning the Salvation of *Ariſtotle*, whom they called Chriſt's forerunner in Naturals, as *John Baptiſt* was in Supernaturals; but alſo ſome of the School Doctors, grave men (ſaith *Acoſta*) do promiſe men Salvation without the knowledge of Chriſt. *Trapp* on *Coloſ.* 2. 8.

The Moral Philoſophy of prophane Authors, treating of the chiefeſt good, and of the happineſs of man, and of virtue, is no other thing then vain deceit. *Piſc. Coloſ.* 2.

Seeing we are complete in Chriſt, they commit folly who have recourſe unto prophane Philoſophers.

The deep Theorems of Philoſophy (ſaid King *James*) make one learned, but ſeldom better; and oftentimes worſe, meer Atheiſts. There is an *Arabick* Proverb, *Cum errat eruditus, errat errore erudito*; that is, a learned man hath learned errors. *Trapp* on *Acts* 17.

Ariſtotle wrote many things moſt abſurdly concerning God, as that he is a living Creature, that he works not freely, but by a kind of ſervile neceſſity; and that therefore he deſerves no praiſe, ſith he doth but what he muſt do: yet at *Stuckard* in *Germany* was found a Doctor of Divinity, that preached to the people, that the Church might be ſufficiently well taught and governed by *Ariſtotle*'s Philoſophy, eſpecially his Ethicks *Trapp* on *Rom.* 1. 21.

To uſe Heathen Authors for oſtentation, is to make a Calf of the Treaſures gotten out of *Egypt*. *Trapp* of Arts.

Many (ſaith one) through their love to the Tree of Knowledge, loſe the Tree of Life.

Papiſts ſay, that we may find their Holy-Water, and ſprinkling of Sepulchres, in *Juvenal*'s ſixth Satyr; their Lights in Sepulchres, in *Suetonius* his *Octavius*; Lamps lighted on Saturdays, in *Seneca*'s 96 Epiſtle; diſtribution of Tapers among the people, in *Macrobius* his Saturnals; Purgatory, in *Virgil*'s *Æneids*.

Æneids. *Trapp*. Thus proving their Doctrines by Heathen Authors, not by Scripture.

Averroes an *Arabian* Physician, so madly admired his Master *Aristotle*, as that he said, there was no errour to be found in his Works, that his Learning was the chief Truth, *&c.* When he dyed, he cryed out, *Sit anima mea cum Philosophis*, Let my Soul be, where the Philosophers Souls are. *Trapp*.

Justin Martyr tells us, that he left his Gentilism upon reading a piece of *Plato*. *Trapp* of Arts.

Augustin acknowledgeth, that nothing more cooled his affections towards that Book called *Cicero*'s *Hortensius*, then that he found not the name of *Jesus* in it; and that on this consideration he was perswaded to the love of Heavenly wisdom, and contemplation of things above. *Trapp*.

The knowledge of Christ is the only Learning, without which all other Learning, doth but light men into utter darkness. *Trapp* of Arts.

As for *Aristotle*'s Divinity, which he calls his Metaphysicks, whereof he wrote 14 Books, it is (saith *Ramus*) the most foolish and impious piece of Sophistry, that ever was written. *Trapp* of Arts.

Lotamus Lovanienſis wrote, that there was no other Faith found in *Abraham*, then was found in *Cicero* a Heathen Philosopher:

whereas *Abram* ſaw my day (ſaith Chriſt) and rejoyced, he walked with God, and was upright; it was not thus with *Cicero*. *Trapp* of Arts.

Latimer was ſo wrought upon by *Bilney*'s confeſſion, as that he began to ſmell the Word of God, and to forſake School Doctors, and ſuch like fooleries, and horrible barbariſm, which had overſpread the eye of whole Chriſtendom. *Trapp* of Arts.

The dignity and ſtudy of *Latine*, *Greek*, and *Hebrew*, the Holy Spirit ſeems to intimate their continuance in the Church, by the Inſcription of Chriſt's Title on the Croſs in thoſe three Tongues, and the utter eradicating of all frivolous and fruitleſs School Quirks, Monkiſh Dotages, Legendary Fables. *Trapp*.

The *Romans* one time baniſhed all Philoſophers out of their City. *Gel. lib.* 15. *Trapp* of Arts.

Licinius the Emperor called Heathen Learning, the plague and poyſon of the Commonwealth. *Trapp* of Arts.

Pope *Paul* the ſecond, pronounced all Scholars Hereticks, and ſeriouſly exhorted the *Romans*, not to breed up their Children at School, ſaying, it was enough if they could read and write. *Trapp* of Arts.

The Heathen *Romans* having conquer'd this Nation, and inhabiting in it for 500 years,

years, as Hiſtories inform us, they erected Schools in this Nation to teach the *Britains*, and brought in their Heathen Poets, Comedies, Tragedies, *&c.* into Schools, which to the ſhame and corrupting of the Nation are yet continued.

Julius Agricola, a *Roman* Emperor's Lieutenant in *Britain*, taught the *Britains* civility, and prevailed with Noblemen to breed up their Sons in liberal Arts, and brought them to affect the *Roman* Eloquence; then they began to imitate the *Roman* Faſhions, the Gown, proud Buildings, Baths, and Banquetings, which the fooliſher ſort called Civility, but was indeed a ſecret Art to prepare them for bondage. *Milton.*

Edgar a *Saxon* King, put forth a Canon, that on Feſtival days every one ſhould abſtain from prophane Heathen Songs, and from diabolical Games and Paſtimes.

Further he enjoyned, that every one abſtain from the reading of fabulous and abſurd things, and from filthy and blaſphemous Ballads: Not well obſerved now.

I *Martin Luther* give notice to all, that on *Monday*, *&c.* all the Books of the Pope be burned, and of ſome of his Diſciples. He gives a reaſon of this thing, ſaying, that they are miſchievous, falſe, ſeducing, wicked, *&c.* *Luth. Tom.* 2.

Luther ſpeaking of Popiſh Schools and

Monaſteries, ſaid, This is my mind and deſire, that theſe Stables of two-footed Aſſes, and Schools of the Devil, ſhould be levelled with the ground, or changed into Chriſtian Schools, by a Godly transformation. *Luth. de inſtitutione puerorum.*

Heathen Learning (ſaith *Gell*) hath a raviſhing and a bewitching beauty; *capta, capit*, being taken, it is much taking alſo, and wins much upon mens affections: and great danger there is (ſaith he) leſt men court the Handmaid, rather then the Miſtreſs; Earthly, inſtead of Heavenly wiſdom, to their deſtruction.

Eſſential inward knowledge in the ſecret underſtanding, is not from fleſh and bloud, nor from the multitude of Books, but by a paſſive reception of Divine things; not by ſtudy, but by patience and ſubmiſſion. *Oſw. Crollius.*

The Academical Spirit cannot underſtand the myſtery of intrinſical Teaching, only humility is capable of illumination. *Oſw. Croll.*

The Schools of the Gentiles have had their time, wherein they have become vain in their imaginations, being exerciſed in vain Philoſophy, and oppoſition of Science, falſly ſo called, whereof the Apoſtle *Paul* admoniſhed true Chriſtians, to take heed they were not deceived by it. Thus ſaith the

the Tranſlator of *John Baptiſta Van Helmont*'s Phyſick Refined, in his Premonition to the Candid Reader.

Further, ſaith he, the Wiſe men of the Eaſt by the direction of the Star, came to worſhip the Child, laying down all their wiſdom at his feet; for a lively token, that all true wiſdom was to be received from him, in whom all the treaſures of wiſdom and knowledge dwells.

Further, ſaith he, ſuch hath been the ſubtilty of the fleſhly Serpent, that under a pretence of owning the name of Chriſt, he hath taken up Paganiſh means and inſtruments to build withall, calling the dregs and droſs of Heathen Schools, Handmaids of Divinity.

John Baptiſta Van Helmont in his Phyſick Refined, ſaid, Logick is ſo far from leading to the knowledge of Univerſals, that it rather thruſts men down into errors.

The World (ſaith this *Helmont*) hath ſuffer'd it ſelf to be circumvented by *Ariſtotle*, who boaſted of Logick to be the Mother of Sciences.

Ariſtotle (ſaith this *Helmont*) extolled the method of Diſputing invented by himſelf, and he takes away all knowledge from a man, unleſs he hath yielded himſelf to be inſtructed in Logick.

Jerom (on *Pſal.* 140, and 143.) doth not unwor-

unworthily compare the Art of Syllogizing to the Plagues of *Egypt*; and he calls Logical demonſtrations, Dog-like diſcourſes. *Helmont.*

Schools (ſaith this *Helmont*) ſuppoſing Logick as neceſſary, do oppoſe themſelves to the commands of the Apoſtle.

I wonder (ſaith *Helmont*) at the great blindneſs of Schools, in ſo great magnifying Logick.

Let Schools (ſaith *Helmont*) tell me, what Science Logick hath ever brought to light, whether Geometry, making of Glaſs, Printing, Husbandry, Medicine, conducting of Water, of Minerals, of Arithmetick, of Building, or any profitable Science; verily none.

Schools of Logick (ſaith this *Helmont*) muſt needs confeſs, that through boaſting, deceit, and ignorance, it hath deceived the credulous World.

To ſay that Logical diſcourſe is very neceſſary for Divines, to refute the ſubtilties of Hereſies, that thing (ſaith this *Helmont*) would be to be wiſe above the Apoſtle, and to commend the abuſes of Schools, above the Holy Scriptures; this were to dethrone Goſpel-weapons, and to inthrone Paganiſm. *Steven* by the Sword of the Spirit, and by Heavenly wiſdom, refuted the *Libertines*, *Cyrenians*, *Alexandrians*, *Cilicians*, not by Pagan

Pagan Logick, *Acts* 6. 9, 10. Chriſt promiſed his Diſciples, ſaying, *I will give you a mouth, and wiſdom, which all your adverſaries ſhall not be able to gain-ſay, nor reſiſt*, Luke 21. 15. he commended them not to Pagan Schools, to *Ariſtotle*, or *Plato*, or any other Heathen, to enable them to refute Hereſies, but to his own gift, his wiſdom, Armour of proof, his own Sword put into the hands, enabling for his work.

We read not that the ancient Chriſtians ever taught Philoſophy openly, and in Schools, but that they rather gain-ſayed it, Pagan. *Gaudentius Theol. de moribus ſeculi.*

Let any one ſhew me (ſaith this Author) that Philoſophy was tanght by Chriſtians, in the time of *Juſtinian*, or before.

Scarce any one can be perſwaded (ſaith this Author) that Chriſtian Emperors would command, that a Heathen Philoſopher, in the Capitol of *Rome*, ſhould teach the opinions of Pagan Philoſophers, to Chriſtians; this would have been to introduce, or bring in old Superſtition.

Juſtin paſſed to the Church, becauſe he found no certainty in the School of *Plato*; he turned from *Plato*, and the reſt of the Heathen Philoſophers, and addicted himſelf to the Scriptures of Truth. *Gaudentius de mor. ſeculi.*

L. Celius Lactantius ſaid, I verily cannot call

call them Philoſophers, that ſtudy for wiſdom, becauſe by that ſtudy they do not attain unto wiſdom.

Richard Fitz-Ralph, called *Armachanus*, in a Sermon preached before the Popes Cardinals in the year 1360. ſaid, Laymen refrain from ſending their Sons to the Univerſities, fearing to have them taken from them; chuſing rather to keep their Sons at home, and breed them to Husbandry, then to loſe them, by ſending them to the Schools.

In a Synod holden at *Guernſey* 1576. and confirmed by a Synod held there 1597. for the Eſtate of *Guernſey* and *Jerſey*, it was provided in behalf of School-maſters, that they ſhould inſtruct their Scholars in the moſt pure Authors both for learning and language, leſt Children by reading laſcivions and immodeſt writings, ſhould be infected with their venom; as may be ſeen in a Book called, *Heylyn*'s Survey of the State of *France*.

Georgius Ederus in his *Mateologia Hæreticorum*, greatly inveighs againſt *Wickliff*, and charges him with ſaying, That Studies were vanities brought into the Church, and profits the Church no more, then the Devil doth.

In the days of Queen *Elizabeth*, the Lords of her Privy-Councel ſent Letters to her High-

High Commiſſioners in Cauſes Eccleſiaſtical, requiring them to write Letters to all the Biſhops of this Realm, and to require them to give commandment, that in all Grammar and Free-Schools within their ſeveral Dioceſſes, *Chriſtopher Ockland*'s Book intituled *Anglorum prælia*, ſhould be taught, in place of ſome Heathen Poets; ſaying, the Youth of the Realm receives rather infections in manners, then advancement in virtue, from the Heathen Poets taught in Schools: They prayed and required, that this might be done for the encouragement of the ſaid *Ockland*, and others travelling in the like Studies, and for the removing of laſcivious Poets, taught in Schools. The names of the Lords of the Privy-Councel, as alſo of her High Commiſſioners in Cauſes Eccleſiaſtical, as alſo their Letters, are to be ſeen at the beginning of the Book called *Anglorum prælia*: The aforeſaid Commiſſioners directed their Letters to all the Biſhops of the Queens Dominions of *England* and *Wales*, for the accompliſhment of the aforeſaid.

Men have neglected ſound, ſavoury, and uſeful matter, the very quinteſſence of Learning, and have devoted themſelves to an exceſs of fine ſpeaking. Biſhop *Wilkins* Real Character.

The grand impoſture of phraſing, hath eaten out all ſolid learning. B. *Wilkins*.

Cæſar

Cæſar Caracalla ſo doated upon the name of *Alexander*, that he was highly offended that a lewd Murtherer called *Alexander*, ſhould be queſtioned for his miſdemeanour, ſaying, Accuſeſt thou *Alexander?* unleſs thou be ſilent concerning *Alexander*, thou art an undone man. Beware leſt in loving the name of Philoſophy, ye embrace Philoſophy with its errors. *Orat. Doct. Ran.*

Tertullian ſaid, that Hereſies are propagated by the *Platoniſts*, by the *Stoicks*, by *Epicures*, by *Heraclitus*, by *Zeno*, by *Ariſtotle*, by worldly wiſdom. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

Ludovicus Vives, *Picus Mirandula*, *Hieronymus Savonarola*, taught, that Chriſtians were not to read *Ariſtotle* and *Plato*, except very warily. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

From the Philoſophy of *Plato* and *Ariſtotle*, peſtilent errors firſt of all invaded, and have long poſſeſſed, and at this day do waſte the Chriſtian Church. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

The World is ſo bewitched by the deluſions of Satan, that the errors of Philoſophers, through vain and rotten diſtinctions, are defended of thoſe called Chriſtians, in their publick Aſſemblies; hereby they have brought it to paſs, that the Faith of Chriſt hath no reſidence in the hearts of many who profeſs him.

Auguſtin in his Confeſſions, accounts *Terence* a Comical Poet, unworthy to be read

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and blames Grammarians for teaching of it. *Orat. Ranoldi.* This is accounted a delicate dish now in Schools, though professing Reformation.

Philosophers of old stained the *Greek* Church with various errors; in this our day they have polluted all *Italy*, with their mischievous opinions, and I wish it were but *Italy* only. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

Far be it from us (saith *Jerom*, who lived about the year 384.) that omnipotent *Jupiter*, *Mecastor*, and other Monsters, rather then Gods, should be heard out of the mouth of a Christian. *Orat. Ranoldi.* And scarce any other thing rings in Schools now.

In the *Nicene* Council of chosen Cardinals, they called it a grand and a destructive abuse, that Professors of Philosophy taught wickedness in publick Schools. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

Under the name of Nature, (saith *Augustin* of old) enemies of Grace lie hid; so in our days, under the name of Philosophy, the enemies of Faith lie hid. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

Where *Aristotle* reigns, there ungodliness hath great dominion. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

What other thing did *Julian* the Apostate, when he endeavoured to sweep Christian Religion from off the face of the Earth, then provide that those opinions should be taught, defended, and declaimed in Schools, which gain-sayed Christianity. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

Maxi-

Maximinus a tyrannical Emperor, who reigned about the year 336. was blamed by *Euſebius*, becauſe he gave way, or wiſhed, that thoſe things ſhould be taught and learned in Schools, which were contrary to ſound godlineſs. *Orat. Ranoldi.*

How foul a thing is it, that that may be ſpoken againſt you, which *Ambroſe* ſpoke of the *Arians*, they have deſerted the Apoſtle, and they follow *Ariſtotle. Orat. Ranoldi.*

No honour nor regard was given to the Art of Poetry before; moreover it was accounted ſo infamous, that if any man was inclinable to the ſtudy thereof, he was called a Robber. *Polydor lib.* 1. *cap.* 8.

Hadrian Saraviah informs us, that the Primitive Chriſtians had no Academical Schools, like to theſe now a-days: Yet there was one at *Alexandria*, where they read only Divinity.

We read not of any Univerſities among the *Waldenſes*, *Albigenſes*, and *Bothemians*, for moſt of their Miniſters were Tradeſmen.

Chriſtians in the Primitive times found Sophiſters, and Philoſophers, to be the principal enemies of Chriſtianity; upon this account they condemned all Heathen learning they condemned Comedies and Tragedies, and other Poetical writings, judging they did not conduce to ſolid knowledge. *Herrald. animad. in Arnob.*

Ter-

Tertullian judged that Schoolmaſters profeſſing Learning, were guilty of great Idolatry, becauſe they only explained Names and Genealogies, and fabulous Acts of Heathen gods, Tertul. *de Idolatr.*

We ſee (ſaith *Gracian*) that the Prieſts of the Lord, neglecting the Goſpel and the Prophets, they read Comedies, and Love Verſes out of *Bucolicks*; they peruſe *Virgil*: and what is a ſin of inforced neceſſity in Children, is become their delight: Doth he not ſeem to walk in Vanity, and Darkneſs of mind, who vexes himſelf day and night in the Study of Logick, and charges his Memory with the diſtinct knowledge of Verſes.

Petrus Bellonius ſaith, that there were many Chriſtians in *Greece*, but few Learned men among them; becauſe they eſteemed not of it as of neceſſity to Chriſtianity: In their Libraries were ſeveral Manuſcripts of Divinity; but no Hiſtorian, nor Philoſopher, nor Poet, for theſe were Anethemized.

Neither the *Greeks* nor the *Pickards*, nor *Waldenſes* in *Bohemia*, did value Learning, Luther *de inſtitutione puerorum, fol.* 444.

It was an Article exhibited againſt *John Wicklif*, Condemned at *Conſtance*, who ſuffer'd as a Martyr; that Graduations and Doctorſhips in Univerſities and Colledges, then in uſe, did conduce nothing to the

Church of Chriſt, for Acts and Monuments.

Colledge Doctors have for their Arms, the Book with ſeven Seals; and why? becauſe they are skil'd in the ſeven Liberal Arts, which is abſurd, and fooliſh, if not Blaſphemous; as though the ſeven Liberal Arts, as Grammar, *&c.* could open the Book with ſeven Seals, 'tis the Lamb only.

The Council of *Carthage* had an expreſs Canon againſt the reading of Heathen Authors, *Conc Carth. Diſt. cap.* 37.

Gregory though a Pope, burnt ſeveral Laſcivious Authors, as *Carden* tells us, *de ſap. lib.* 2.

In like manner *Gregory Nazianzen* the Father, ſuppreſſed ſeveral Greek Authors, as *Diphiles*, *Apollodonus*, *Philemon*, *Alexis*, *Sappho*, &c.

Machivael teſtifies, that the firſt promoters of Chriſtianity, commanded all Poets and Hiſtorians, which treated of the Gentiles vain Converſation and Worſhip to be burned, *Mach. Diſp. lib.* 2. *cap.* 5.

'Tis written by one in the life of *Jerom*, that he was a great Student in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, Caldean, and Syrian Tongues, and much in love with *Tullies* Eloquence; being in a Fever he was brought in the Spirit to the Judgment Seat of Chriſt; being examined, he ſaid he was a Chriſtian; the Judge replyed, thou ſeemſt to be rather a *Ciceroni-*

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an then a Christian, for where thy Treasure is, there is thy life also: On this occasion *Jerom* rejected Heathen Books and Fables, unprofitable and vain Studies; writing to Pope *Damasus*, he reproved Ecclesiastical persons, for neglecting Holy Scriptures, and spending their time in Heathenish Books and Fables.

Men of unquestionable worth (saith *Dell*) seeing the evil of spoiling Philosophy, have spoken freely against Universities stained thereby: *Wicklif* tells them, *Castra Cainitica*, that is, *Cains* Castles, *Satans* Synagogues; affirming that they were never instituted by Christ.

John Hus, or *Otho Brunselsius*, if he set out the Contents of the Chapter, calls them *Satrapas Antichristi*, the Lieutenants of Antichrist.

Luther in his Book against *Ambrosius Catharinus*, saith, that Universities are an open gate of hell, and that therein the most choice Youth of Christian people are prostituted, and cast into the open throat of Hell.

Further he saith, that whosoever first instituted and confirmed Universities, he was a Star fallen from Heaven to Earth, from the Gospel of Christ to humane Learning.

Melancthon termed the Universities, houses of Lies; saying further, that Students in Universities, are not people of the Gospel,

nor yet of the Law, but are the people of *Ariſtotles* Morals.

Obj. Theſe ſpoke againſt Popiſh Univerſities, and they are otherwiſe now. 'Tis true (ſaith *Dell*) the outward form of groſs Popery is taken away from them, as from the Nation; yet the Inner part of it remains as before, the ſelf ſame Statutes of the Univerſities remain in force, which were firſt given by Popiſh Founders; again, the ſame Philoſophy of Heatheniſm is inſtilled now into Youth, as in the darkeſt dayes of Popery, the ſelf ſame outward and Antichriſtian Forms and Follies ſtill remain as in the darkeſt o Popery, even unto their Hoods, Caps, Scarlet Robes, Doctoral Rings, Gloves, their Doctoral Dinner and Muſick.

To this day preſently after their Divinity Acts, (ſaid this *Dell*) they have their Prevaricator; a notable Varlet, picked out of the Univerſities, who in the preſence of all the Heads, Students, Scholars, and the great reſort of Miniſters and People at their Commencement; Abuſes, Derides, and Jeers all ſorts of perſons, of all Ages, Sexes, and Profeſſions; ſuch works of Levity were never allowable among the Holy men of God. Chriſt ſaid, have Salt in your ſelves, Heavenly wiſdom, with which thoſe that are ſeaſoned, cannot but ſavour, and comprehend ſuch things to be unſavoury.

Juſtin

Juſtin Martyr lived about the year 150. He, (as 'tis related in his Dialogue with *Trypho*) firſt joyned himſelf to that Sect of Philoſophers called Stoicks, after to the Peripatetick's, after to the Pythagorean Sect, after to the Platoniſts; being Converted, he wholly left his Philoſophy, and Philoſophical apprehenſions, and betook himſelf to the Scriptures.

Conſtantine the Emperor took care that the Scriptures might be taught to people, judging it moſt meet that Chriſtians ſhould be inſtructed in the Faith of Chriſt, and not in Heatheniſh Philoſophy, *Euſeb. lib.* 4.

Through this *Conſtantine*, the Sufferings of the Church vaniſhed; then Chriſtians grew more Carnal and ſecure, even in his days, and began to ſeek after ſpoiling of Philoſophy; yet in all Ages God had ſome witneſſes againſt it.

Berno, who lived in the year 1008. Being furniſhed with all ſorts of Learning, ſaid, that he for many years had rejected Poetical Fictions, Heathen Hiſtorians, Worldly Learning, as dung, and was wholly minded to ſearch out Heavenly things, Berno *in Epiſtola ad Magnifred*

Zuinglius in his Youth was exerciſed in all ſorts of Learning: In the end he intreated the Lord to vouchſafe him his own Light; ſaying, what he had Learned before from

Philoſophers, procur'd him much trouble; and he rejected Phyloſophy, and counted it as dung, Zuingl. *de veritate Verbi.*

Schools and Univerſities were at firſt corrupted, by declining the pure word of the Goſpel, and entertaining Philoſophy and Heathen Authors, *Dell.*

Matthias Pariſienſis a *Bohemian* by Nation, about the year 1580. wrote a Book againſt Antichriſt; wherein he affirms, that Antichriſt had deceived and miſled all Univerſities and Colledges of the Learned, ſo that now, ſaith he, they teach no ſound thing, neither give they true light unto Chriſtians by their Doctrine, *Illeryc. Flair. Catal. Teſt. Veritat.*

Antichriſt (ſaith *John Hus*) hath drawn men aſide from the wiſdom of God repleniſhed with Salvation, and with the Holy Spirit, to the prudence and wiſdom of men, and of the Princes of this World, *de Antichriſto, cap.* 30.

Martin Luther ſaid, whoſoever it was; whether *Alexander* of *Hales*, or *Thomas Aquine*, who firſt inſtituted Univerſities; he was a Star fallen from Heaven to Earth, Luther *de Captiv.* Babylon.

Abbas Joachim Calaber about the year 1230. in his Commentary on *Jeremy* ſpeaks to this purpoſe; that the firſt Angel mentioned, in *Revelations* the ninth, opens the bottom-

bottomleſs pit, and brings forth Philoſophy into the Church; and out of this ſmoak of this Doctrine proceeded Locuſts, and theſe Locuſts, ſaid he, are Schoolmen and Maſters, who ſometime uſe Flattery to deceive, ſometime Rigour to ſubvert the ſimple and unwary.

The Lord ſtirr'd up *Julian* (ſaith he) to put down Heathen Learning in Chriſtian Schools; that it might appear, that as the true Chriſtian Religion is not helped by humane Learning, ſo neither is it hindred by the want of it. *Rainold* in his Orations ſaith the contrary of this *Julian*; but times and ends being conſidered, they are eaſily reconciled.

The Queen of the South neglecting the *Magi*, Philoſophers, Heathen Wiſemen, came from the utmoſt parts of the earth to hear Wiſdom of *Solomon*; but Schools and Univerſities leave Chriſt, greater then *Solomon*, in whom are all Treaſures of wiſdom and knowledge, and ſeeks knowledge from the Heathen, as *Ariſtotle*, *Plato*, &c. *Dell.*

Socrates Scholaſticus ſaith, that for Chriſtians thoroughly to imbibe the Learning of the Heathen, it can no way advantage Chriſtian Religion, for it is not without danger, for Chriſtians to be inſtructed in Heathen Learning, becauſe it teacheth a plurality of gods, that there are many gods, *lib.3.cap.14.*

My advice is (ſaith *Luther*) that Youth ſhun Philoſophy and School Divinity, as the death of the Soul, *Tom.* 2. *fol.* 434.

It is an Error to ſay, that a Divine is not made without *Ariſtotle*, rather a Divine is not made unleſs that be done without *Ariſtotle*, *Luth. Tom.* 1. *fol.* 10.

I truly judge that our *Engliſh* man *Wicklif* was a wiſe man; who firſt of all, as far as I know ſaw that Univerſities were Satans Synagogues, *Melanæthon.*

Seeing Chriſt Inſtituted not thoſe Univerſities, (ſaith *Wicklif*,) or Colledges, it ſeems evident, that they, as Graduations in them, are vain Heatheniſm brought in; in token of this, both Collegiates, and other Graduates ſeek themſelves. This *Wicklif* was Maſter of *Baliol* Colledge in *Oxford*, Wicklif *in ſpeculo Militantis Eccleſiæ, cap.* 26.

We muſt make inquiry of Schoolmaſters and other profeſſors of Learning, teaching Heathen Gods, their Names, Genealogies, and Fables: Yea we need not doubt, but that they are guilty of Idolatry of divers ſorts, *Tertul de Idolatr.*

A Chriſtian Schoolmaſter by his frequent reading of Poets, defilements of Idols; he ſeems to allow of theſe things, *Regaltius in Tertullianum.*

Socrates drove out of the City lewd Demons, and Atchievers of Naughtineſs, handled

led by Poets, and he taught men to ſhun *Homer*, and other Poets; and he exhorted them after the ſearch of the living God, whom they were ignorant of, *Juſtini pro Chriſtianis apologio prima.*

Abſtain from all Heathen Books, ſaith *Clemens Romanus*, ſaying further; what is wanting in the Law of God, that thou ſhould apply thy mind unto Heathen Fables, *lib.* 1. *cap.* 6.

What madneſs poſſeſſes the minds of men, that they ſhould regard *Jupiter*; whom they do not only know to be an ungodly man, Wicked, Profane, Whoriſh, a patricid; but alſo ſing to him on the Stage: The Ancients denyed theſe things, but now through a pretence of inſtructing Youth, the knowledge of theſe things is ſo incorporated in tender and ſimple minds, as that the ſame can ſcarce by any way or means be rid out of them, *Recognit. Clement. lib.* 10.

Auguſtin Biſhop of *Hippo*, commanded Poetry to be driven out of the City of God, ſo alſo did *Ethnick Plato*, out of his Common-wealth; *Cicero* forbad the ſame to be entertained, *Cor. Agrip. Devan. Scient.*

Auguſtin called Heathen Poetry the Wine of Error, drunk of drunken Doctors.

Jerom called it the meat of Devils.

Logick is nothing but the Art of Contention and Darkneſs, whereby all other Sciences

ences are made more obſure, and more hard to be known, *Cornel. Agrip. de vanitate Scientiarum.*

Almoſt all the rabble of Schollars buſied in the inventions of Philoſophers, or Sophiſters, ſeems to do no more, then learn to commit Error, and to make the Truth more obſcure, or to loſe the ſame, *Carnel. Agrip. de vanitate Scientiarum.*

Queen *Elizabeth* enjoyned, that Schoolmaſters ſhould accuſtom their Schollers, reverently to learn ſuch Sentences of Scriptures, as ſhould be moſt expedient to induce them to all godlineſs.

Tindal a Martyr ſaid, whoſoever ordained Univerſities, be it *Alexander* of *Hales*, *Thomas Aquinas*, or any other, he was a Star fallen from Heaven to Earth; for there are brought in (ſaith he) Moral vertues for Faith, Opinions for Truth, and ſaid, they were a confuſed cloud, *Tindal* of the Revelation of Antichriſt.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

A memento to Schoolmaſters and Tutors, to turn from Heathen, to the godly and Chriſtian education of Youth; as alſo of the riſe of Chriſtian Schools, and how the ſame came to be corrupted.

NOw O Schoolmaſters and inſtructers of Youth, in Schools and Colledges, let me come nearer unto you, 'tis not Schools, but corrupting, ſpoiling and depraving abuſes therein managed, I ſpeak againſt.

Cicero could ſay, we cannot any wiſe do the Common-wealth more ſervice, then by teaching and inſtructing Youth, provided (ſaith I) it be in the knowledge of the Lord, of his Creation, of favoury and neceſſary things and uſeful accompliſhments.

Let me tell you, I oppoſe not Teaching or Learning of Languages, as of Latin, Greek, or Hebrew, *&c.* Knowing there may be a ſervice therein, for the management of Forreign Tranſactions, and Negotiations, and Correſpondence with other Nations; but it being that all favoury and ſound knowledge relates primarily to God, ſecondarily to the knowledge of the Creation, and of the uſe-

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ful and neceſſary imployments My Teſtimony is, that Children ſhould be inſtructed in the aforeſaid, in the fear of the Lord, it being the door of Heavenly wiſdom.

How precious were it, if their Souls like *Gideons* Fleece, did drink up betime the pearly dew of Divine Grace, and Heavenly vertue: 'Tis honourable (ſaith *Ambroſe*) for Youth to be found in the fear of the living God; 'tis the Devil, his Books, and his wiſdom, which is earthly, ſenſual, and deviliſh, I ſpeak againſt, if in learning of Languages; uſeful, profitable, and neceſſary matter were learned; a double advantage would accrue unto the learner; cannot Languages be learned, except in the Devils Books and Arts?

I teſtifie that all laſcivious Poems, wanton Comedies, vain Tragedies, frivolous Fables, inchanting Orations, ſpoiling Philoſophy, Pagan Ethicks, Phyſicks, and Metaphyſicks, now taught in Chriſtian Schools, are the muddy ſtreams of the lying Spirit, and to be denyed by ſerious Chriſtians.

You may read that the Patriarchs before the Law, taught their Children and Houſholds, to walk in the ways of the Lord; they taught them not Heatheniſm, nor Serpentine Inventions, *Gen.* 18. 17, 19.

Under the *Moſaical* Deſpenſation, the Prophets had Schools, wherein they taught Youth the knowledge of the Lord, the Book of

of *Moſes* and the Prophets then extant; they taught no Heatheniſh learning, no *Egyptian* Philoſophy, nor the *Smaragdine* Table of *Hermes Triſmegiſtus*, during the continuance of that Miniſtration.

Oh that there were ſuch an heart in Iſrael, (ſaid the Lord) *to fear me and to keep all my Commandments always, that it might go well with them, and with their Children for ever*, Deut. 5. 29.

Solomon, wiſe in the wiſdom of God, ſaid, *Train up a Child in the way he ſhould go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it*, Prov. 22. 6. He ſhould go in the way of holineſs, in which the ranſomed of the Lord walk, with ſongs of deliverance in their mouths: Children are to be trained up in the Lords way; not in Heatheniſm, Serpentine inventions, Heathen Philoſophy, laſcivious Comedies, and Tragedies, frivolous Fables; theſe things are in the Devils way: I ſaw it in the glaſs of Immortality, in the lamp of Eternity, in the ſin-diſcovering diſpenſation of the Almighty, that ſuch as teach theſe things, they are Satans Cooks, preparing a deadly diſh; Satans Butlers, making Youth drunk with the Cup of Abomination, and Fornication, a ruſty Channel, through whom a ſtream of folly enters into thoſe committed to their charge, which nothing but a Divine rod can drive out, *Prov.* 22. 15.

David

David the ſweet ſinger of *Iſrael* enquired, ſaying, *Wherewith ſhall a young man cleanſe his way? in taking heed thereto according to the word*, Pſal. 119. 9. He commends young men to the word, the word of Faith, of Patience, of Reconciliation, of Vivification, that they may be cleanſed and purified thereby; he commends them not to Paganiſm, Ethnick Education, ſpoiling Philoſophy.

The Lord (ſaith the holy man of God) *eſtabliſhed a Teſtimony in* Jacob, *and ordained a Law in* Iſrael *which he commanded our Fathers that they ſhould teach their Children, that Children which ſhould be born, ſhould ſtand up and declare it to their Children*, Pſal. 78. 5, 6. The Teſtimony and Law of the Lord, was to be propagated and taught to young and old in that Diſpenſation, the wiſdom of God which cauſes the face to ſhine, and fills the inward parts with joyful Melody, not Serpentine wiſdom, the wiſdom of this World, the Dictates of the Infernal Dragon, drowning men in perdition.

Further, the Lord ſaid, *Learn not the way of the Heathen*, Jeremiah 10. 2. Now all Heathen Philoſophy, Ethicks, Phyſicks, and Metaphyſicks, Heathen Poets, Comedies, Tragedies, and Fables, are the way of the Heathen, ſo not to be learned; the language of the Serpent, to be rejected: when *Iſrael* was ſtained with the Inventions of the

Heathen

Heathen, the Lord raiſed complaints againſt them, *Pſal.* 106.

As the holy men of God in the Patriarchal and Moſaical diſpenſations, through the ſhield of Faith fenc'd out the wiſdom of the Fleſh; So in the Evangelical diſpenſation, the Diſciples and Apoſtles of the Lamb, kept the ſame, and laboured in the vertue and ſtrength of Divine abilities, committed to them, to bring them to Chriſt, the Magazine, Repoſitory, and ſtore-houſe of Heavenly wiſdom and knowledge.

Chriſt Jeſus (ſaith *Hoſpinian de Origine Scholarum*) inſtituted the firſt Academy in the New Teſtament, and called twelve Diſciples, whom he diligently inſtructed in Heavenly Doctrine; he taught them no Heathen Philoſophy, nor Traditions of men.

After the Reſurrection of Chriſt, the Apoſtles being well confirmed in his School, and furniſhed with the gifts of the holy Spirit; went out into the World according to Chriſts command, and commended unto others what they had learned of Chriſt, *Hoſpinian, Matth.* 28. 19, 20. *Go and teach all Nations*, &c. *Teaching them to obſerve all things, whatſoever I have commanded you*; what, and only what they received from Chriſt; that, and only that they were to teach others; but no Heathen Philoſophy, nor Traditions of men, dropped out of their Mouths;

Mouths; but their living concerns was to bring them to learn of Christ the wisdom of God, and to witness Salvation, and Eternal life through him.

Further, *Paul* said to *Timothy*, *What things thou hast heard of me in the presence of many witnesses, the same deliver to faithful men, which shall be able to teach others also*, 2 Tim. 2. 2. Hosp. But we read not that *Timothy* taught Heathen Philosophy to any; which plainly demonstrates, that *Timothy* received no such thing from *Paul*, though he had been brought up at the feet of *Gamaliel*.

Further, *Paul* who had the mind of Christ, writing to Fathers in the behalf of Children, said, *And ye Fathers provoke not your Children to wrath, but bring them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord*, Ephes. 6. 4. Not in wanton Poets, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, the ways of the Heathen.

The Primitive Bishop or Elders (saith one) had tender regard unto the Children of Christians, and taught them as well as the people the knowledge of God in Christ, and rejected vain Philosophy, and Traditions of men, till the Mystery of iniquity began to insinuate it self among them, by the means of humain Learning. A School in *Alexandria* was instituted, not very long after the Apostles days; for about the year 182. one *Pantenus* brought up among the Heathen

Stoicks

Stoick Philosophers, moderated that School, whereby the Doctrine of Christ quickly spread over the face of the earth, exercise in Scriptures flourished among them; at length he travelled as far as *India*, to confirm them in the Faith of Christ, *Euseb. lib.* 5. *Hospinian*, we read not that he bred them up in Heathen Philosophy, Poets, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, *&c.*

Afterwards (saith this *Hospinian*) Monasteries were built through *Europe*, not through an opinion of any merit, or through any Superstition; neither that they should be Stews of lewd Fellows, but that they might be as Schools, in which not Children only, but such as were grown up, might be instructed in Piety, Religion, and Heavenly Doctrine, so to be capacitated for convincing, converting, and building up of others in the saving knowledge of the Lord.

But as *John* forefaw a Star fall from Heaven unto the Earth, to whom the Key of the bottomless pit should be given, and that a smoak should arise out of the pit, Erroneous Doctrines, Humain Traditions, Heathen Learning, spoiling Philosophy, whereby the Sun and the Air, should be darkened, the purity of the Primitive Church, and of Schools, should be spoiled, *Revel.* 9. Now as this was fulfilled, the Study of true Divinity (saith this *Hospinian*) began by little

and little to grow cold, to be aboliſhed, and altogether to vaniſh in theſe Monaſteries or Schools; then they invented new opinions concerning Merits, Invocation of Saints, of the Popes Supremacy, of Purgatory, of Tranſubſtantiation; this School Divinity taking root and ſpreading, the minds of the ſimple were intangled and inſnared; the Placeats or Opinions of the *Roman* Popes, the Writings of *Ariſtotles* Metaphyſicks had ingreſs into Schools, thus Heavenly wiſdom being turned from, the ſmoak of the pit, earthly wiſdom, Heathen Learning ſteamed into the Churchse and Schools, through which to this day they are clouded, ſtained and corrupted.

But in reference to the Divinity-School of *Alexandria*; by little and little it ſo degenerated and loſt the Heavenly Savour; as that, there hath not been (ſaith the Author of the Book called the *Naked Truth*) a greater plague to Chriſtian Religion then School-Divinity, from which ſprung forth, damnable Hereſies, overſpreading all Chriſtendom.

Whence did *Paulus Samoſetanus* derive his venomous Hereſies againſt the Son of God? but from *Plotinus*, and his Philoſophick Diſputations in the School of *Alexandria*.

Did not *Arius*, a Presbyter of the Church of *Alexandria*, imbibe or drink up his blaſphemy

phemy againſt the Divinity of Chriſt, out of the Divinity-School of *Alexandria*, about the year 310. From him ſprung the *Arians*, who over-ran all Chriſtendom.

Origen alſo, and after him *Pelagius*, derived their Peſtilent Errours againſt the grace of God, out of the ſame School.

Thus after the Apoſtles times, the wiſdom from above being turned from, the wiſdom that is from below, being entertained in Churches and Schools, the Apoſtacy and fall from the Primitive order, life, and ſoundneſs in Doctrine and Converſation, was brought forth.

If the patern of the Primitive Church, rooted and grounded in Heavenly Wiſdom, Heavenly Philoſophy, (ſaith *Theoph. Gale*) had been obſerved, neither *Origen*, nor *Arius*, nor *Pelagius*, nor *Socinus*, nor the Schoolmen, nor any of that Company, had been overwhelmed in ſo many monſtrous Errours.

Many of the Primitive Doctors and Fathers, (ſaith the Author of the Book called the *Naked Truth*) being converted from Heatheniſm, greatly skil'd in Natural Philoſophy, Antiquity, Hiſtory, Subtil Logick, or Sophiſtry, were unwilling to abandon their long ſtudied and beloved Sciences ſo called; ſo tranſlated them into Chriſtianity, applying their School Terms, Diſtinctions, Syllogiſms, to Divine matters, ſo defaced Chriſtian knowledge.

Thus through the ſteaming in of Heatheniſm, into Church and School, the pure, ſound, ſavoury Education of Youth in the knowledge of the Lord, was loſt, and a depriving, ſpoiling, corrupting education entred in, out of lewd Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, ſpoiling Philoſophy, continued yet in Chriſtendom. I doubt not (ſaith our Country man *Dell*) but ſome men ſhew more care and pains, to teach a Colt to Pace and Amble, then they do to inſtruct their Children to walk in the way of Gods Commandments.

Further, you Maſters in Schools and Colledges, who inſtruct Youth in Prophane Authors, Arts and Sciences, as the Lamp of Eternity is lighted in you, you will ſee you have been dancing after the Popes Pipe, yea after the Serpents Pipe, the Author of Heatheniſm.

You may read, that in the time of the *Saxon* Heptarchie, *Auſtine* the Monk with others, came from *Rome* into this Nation, and the Faith, and School-Education of Papal *Rome*, was received by the *Saxons*, ſo that many Authors came into our Schools, by and through them, which are yet continued.

Sigebert King of the *Eaſt-Angles*, having learned in *France* the manner of their Schools, with aſſiſtance of ſome Teachers out of *Kent*,

Kent, instituted after the same Discipline, the University of *Cambridge*, then first founded, about the year 630. This *Sigebert* afterward changed his Royal Robe for a Hood.

About the year 668. by means of *Theodore* a learned Greekish Monk of *Tarsus*, whom Pope *Vitalian* had ordained Bishop of *Canterbury*, the Greek and Latin Tongue with other liberal Arts, as Arithmatick, Musick, Astronomy, *&c.* began first to flourish among the *Saxons*, saith *Milton*.

By the Council of four Monks, Schollars of *Bede*, (saith *Dell*) to wit, *Rabanus*, *Albinus*, *Claudius*, and *John Scotus*, the University which had been translated from *Athens* to *Rome*, was translated by *Charles* the great from *Rome* to *Paris*, about the year 791.

Thus *Cambridge* was made an University by King *Sigebert* of the Romish Faith, and the Lectures there were begun by four Monks; Fryer *Ode* read Grammar, *Tericus* read *Aristotles* Logicks, Fryer *William* read *Tullies* Rhetorick, *Dilsebert* read Divinity to them on *Sundays* and Saints days so called.

About the year 895. King *Alfred*, through the perswasion of Monk *Neotus*, made *Oxford* a publick University, and appointed Maintenance for the Professors of Learning there, as saith *Georg. Lilius* in *Chron. Britt.*

After both these places of Literature were

made or confirmed Universities in *Edward* the first his time; by the Court of *Rome*, as *Robert Remington* affirms.

The very names of the Colledges discover their Founders, as *Christs Colledge*, *Jesus Colledge*, *Immanual Colledge*, *Trinity Colledge*, *Corpus Christi*, that is, *Christs body Colledge*, and one in *Oxford* for the help of all dead Souls, and for their rescue out of Purgatory, called *All Souls Colledge*. Now how these Collegians shew forth the Spirit of Christ by their Fruits, and how their deportment is to such as in faith and patience wait for the Kingdom of Christ, and the righteousnes thereof; or whether they be as the Lilie among the Thorns, or as the Thorns, I leave another pen to discover.

Universities to gain the greater profit to themselves, give divers Degrees and Titles, as Bachelors of Arts, Masters of Arts, Bachelors of Divinity, Doctors of Divinty; whereby (saith *Dell*) they gain Honour, Reverence, and Reputation, among all that are under the delusion of Antichrist; true it is, *a principio non ita fuit*: 'Twas not so from the beginning, till the Star fell from Heaven to Earth, and the smoak arose out of the Pit, darkening Sun and Air, these things were not, in seven years in Universities; they are Masters of Art, as an Apprentice is Master of his Trade, having served seven years:

years: Papists made their Ministers in these places, as the Protestants do now; the Philosophy there taught now, is the same, that the Heathen *Roman* Emperors set up; they caused to be taught, Grammar and Logick, and most of the seven Arts, as now.

The Vicechancellor admitting a Bachelor of Divinity to his Degree, uses these words, *We admit thee to preach all the Apostolical Epistles, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Spirit.* But,

Admitting a Doctor of Divinity to his Degree, he saith, *We admit thee to preach all the Sacred Scriptures, both of the Old, and of the New Testament, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,* cap. 20. *de Ceremoniis in gradibus conferendis,* Zuinglius.

In the Primitive times, such as were called of the Lord, they waited for Heavenly Abilities, to be capacitated to beget others into the life of Righteousness, and to build them up in the most holy Faith; they did not ambitiously affect Titles out of the God-serving life; the Pharisees were guilty of this, as formal Christians were: After the ingress, and inrode of Apostasy, *Zuinglius* on *Matth.* 23. said, Thou heare hereſt, that the Titles of Masters and Doctors, are not of God. because Christ forbids this thing; and those Titles that are not of God, nor of

Chriſt, they are of Antichriſt, ſo to be denyed by ſuch as are branches of the true Vine. Further, *Wilſon* in his *Compleat Chriſtian Dictionary*, ſaid, that ambitious ſeeking after Titles ought to be eſchewed.

Obj. In the Apoſtles days there were ſeveral Titles, as Evangeliſts, Apoſtles, Prophets, Paſtors, Doctors.

Anſ. True it is, but theſe and the reſt made uſe of, or mentioned in the New Teſtament, were ſignificant names, names of Office, befitting and expreſſing the work they were called unto, and concerned in, as I might particularize; as for Doctor, it might more properly be tranſlated Teacher; ſo a name of Office, *Wicklif* touching this thing, ſaid, a name of Office differs much from the name of a School Degree, brought in by the Heathen, *Wicklif, in ſermone domini in Monte.*

While the Primitive purity, Life, Power, Faith and Order was kept; he that miniſtred, he was to do it, out of the ability which God gave, 1 *Pet.* 4. 11. The power of the Miniſtry was derived from the pure Spring of Divine ability, but this ability being loſt, Schools were erected, Heathen Learning was entertained; where men are qualified now for the Miniſtry, this muddy lake, open in *Rome*-Heathen, ſteamed into Apoſtatiſed *Rome*-Chriſtian, drunk up in Pro-

Proteſtant Countreys and Kingdoms now.

To draw to a Concluſion, you Teachers of Schools and Colledges, it being that the ſpecious Fabrick of the World being finiſhed, *God looked upon every thing that he had made, and behold it was very good*, Gen. 1. 31. were it not more God-like, more Chriſtian-like, to inſtruct Youth in the knowledge of God, whom to know is life Eternal, and in the knowledge of his works, being very good, and uſeful and neceſſary things, then in the knowledge of Heathen Arts and Sciences, brought in by the Serpent, which in every Age and Generation, the holy men of God; yea and ſuch as have lived in the midnight of Apoſtaſie, with ſome glimpſes of Divine light in their *Goſhen*, bare Teſtimony againſt, as the fore-mentioned Teſtimonies, with others that might have been ſubjoyned ſufficiently evidence.

David in the wiſdom of God, ſaid, *The works of the Lord are wonderful, ſought out of all them that have pleaſure therein*, Pſal. 111. 2. Such as have pleaſure in the Lord, cannot but have pleaſure in his works: Now you that make Heatheniſm your concern, you neither have pleaſure in the Lord, nor in his works, which are very good.

Further, *David* in the conſideration of the Lord; broke out, ſaying, *Lord, how manifold are thy works, in wiſdom thou haſt made*

made them all, the earth is full of thy riches, ſo is the great and wide Sea alſo, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both ſmall and great beaſts, Pſal. 104. 24, 25. If man ſhould live the days of *Mathuſelah*, who lived 969. years, yet is the Lord the Book of life, and the Book of Creation, ſufficient for his obſervation; I tell you in downright Tearms, the Lord made man to eye him and his Creation, but the Serpent diſlocating man, brought him to eye him, and his products, and all Heathen Authors, Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, ſpoiling Philoſophy, Pagan Ethicks, Phyſicks, and Metaphyſicks, are the products of the Serpent, ſo ſee what you do, and where you are.

Rainold in his *Orations*, ſaid, he is to be accounted a wiſe man, who knows things that are profitable; not he that knows many things.

Now if Languages muſt be Learned, were it not more Chriſtian like, that out of Latin, *&c.* Books for that purpoſe provided, Children and Youth read the Natures of Trees, Birds, Beaſts, Fiſh, Serpents, Inſects, Earths, Metals, Salts, Stones, Vulgar and Precious, as alſo rules for Gardening, Agriculture, Grazing of Cattel, Buildings, Navigation, Arithmatick, Geography, Chronology, ſound Hiſtory, Medicine, knowledge in Law, Improvement of Lands,

Lands, Chirurgery, Traffick Government, ordering of Bees, Propagation of Plants, by Roots, Seeds, Slips, Layers, Suckers, by Grafting, Inoculating, Imping, and of Geometry, which one *Proclus* aſcribes to to the *Ægyptians*, who (the River *Nilus* now and then overflowing, confounding and diſordering their Land-marks) found out the uſe and benefit of Geometry; by means of which, every one came to be ſettled in their former and proper right: I ſay, were it not more Chriſtian like, that Children and Youth were inſtructed in the knowledge of the Lord, of his Creation, and of neceſſary and uſeful things, whereby they might be qualified for the help, benefit, and advantage of others, in their reſpective Generations; then to be trained up in laſcivious Poems, wanton Comedies, fooliſh Tragedies, frivolous Fables, Heathen Orations, Pagan Philoſophy, being the Language of the old Serpent, and of the ſmoak which darkened Sun and Air, after the Primitive times: Certainly (ſaith *Baptiſta Van Helmont* in his Phyſick refined) I could wiſh that the ſpring of Young-men, might not hereafter be ſeaſoned, with ſuch trifles and lying Sophiſtry; they would learn in the ſeven years, Arithmatick, Mathamaticks, Geography, With the Circumſtances of Seas, Rivers, Springs, Mountains; Provinces, Minerals, the property and

and cuſtom of Nations, Plants, living Creatures, *&c.*

So by way of recapitulation let me tell you, the knowledge of the Lord, of his Creation, and of uſeful and neceſſary things, I own and deſire propagation thereof, ſeeing in meaſure mans ſtate and concern, before *Abbadon*, *Apollyon*, the deſtroyer prevailed, but the knowledge introduced by the old Serpent, his Wiſdom, his Poems, his Comedies, vain Tragedies, ſpoiling Philoſophy, Heathen Ethicks, Phyſicks, Metaphyſicks, as depriving and corrupting Youth, I utterly deny: Take the Teſtimony of the Reformer *Martin Luther*; who ſaid,

It is a ſerious thing, a weighty thing, that Youth be inſtructed in a Godly, and in a Chriſtian manner.

Obj. Didſt not thou teach all uſual School Authors, how comeſt thou thus to inveigh againſt them.

I Anſwer, true it is, I taught theſe things, being deeply plunged in the waters of *Marah*, waters of bitterneſs; but I found no peace therein, but always entering into the Chamber of ſerioufneſs, and commencing with the Lord in his Deſpenſation of Grace to me committed; I found the Mouth of Heaven open againſt them, I ſaw them as the full and lothſome matter of an Ulcer,

as

as the Waters of *Babylon*, tranſporting into the region of the ſhadow of death; Spiritually a dead Sea, in which no man can live unto God; and though I uſed them, after I knew them to be evil, I had no peace therein, but waited for a deliverance, deſiring of the Lord I might not dye therein, in that heatheniſh muddy concern; but he delivered me from the bewitchings of that *Dalilah*: In ſecret retirements ſpiritual reſignation, the abomination and inchantments of the aforeſaid, is more and more diſcovered; I have put off that Coat, and have entertained a reſolution, never more to put it on, I have waſhed my Feet, how ſhall I be defiled therewith? You that are bound with the delights, bewitchings, or profits of Heatheniſm, of the ſeven liberal Arts, or of any inventions of the Serpent, as *Samſon* was bound with ſeven green Wyths, which he broke as a threed of Tow, when it toucheth the Fire. I tell you the Truth, as it is in Jeſus, as the light which ſhines in darkneſs, ariſes out of darkneſs, and clears your underſtandings, and gives you the knowledge of the excellency of Heavenly wiſdom, and of the danger of the wiſdom from below, in the luſtre of this, and in Heavenly ſtrength received in it; you will break aſunder the ſeven green Wyths of the bewitching delights of Heatheniſm, of Hea-

then learning, and bear Teſtimony for an education of Youth in the knowledge of the Lord, and of the Creation, and of neceſſary things, expedient for the accompliſhment of Youth for lawful and honeſt ſervice in their reſpective Generations, wherein, as the Lord opens a door, and encouragement is given, I am ready to be ſerviceable; being raiſed to that hope, that *Babylon* muſt fall; as in the particular, ſo muſt he in the General, and her Merchants ceaſe Trading in her proud waves, and that the knowledge which is Heaven-bred, muſt cover the Earth, as Water covers the Sea, and that the wiſdom which is from below, muſt be ſcoured away, as clouds before the wind; ſo be wiſe, and not pillars to ſupport that putrified ſtructure which the Lord is riſen to overturn; 'tis not learning, but unlawful learning; not Schools, but abuſes and corruptions thereinto crept, that this Teſtimony is againſt, as the Intelligent Reader may underſtand.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Laſtly, *A few* Queries *ſoberly propoſed to the Conſideration of ſuch as Teach Heathen Authors in Chriſtian Schools.*

1. IF *Adam* and his poſterity, had kept the ſtate of Innocency, whether ever had we had wanton Poets, and Poems, laſcivious Comedies, feigned Tragedies, frivolous Fables, ſpoiling Philoſophy; yea or nay?

2. Whether it ought to be the concern of Schoolmaſters as of Miniſters, to eradicate, or propagate, what was introduced, by the Author of the fall?

3. Whether to have Teachers in every Pariſh, *vi & armis*, as by force of arms, to drive Heatheniſm into Youth, be the way to eradicate the ſame; yea or nay?

4. Whether man was not created to eye his Creator and the Creation: yea or nay?

5. Whether the Serpent Prevalent over man, laid not the foundation of another kingdom: yea or nay?

6. Whether wanton Poems, laſcivious Comedies, and Tragedies, frivolous Fables, ſpoiling Philoſophy, taught in Schools, be not

not the Language of that Kingdom: yea or nay?

7. Whether it be not a ſhame to Chriſtian Schools and Colledges, that Languages cannot, or are not taught, without being beholden to the Heathen: yea or nay?

8. Whether wanton Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, ſpoiling Philoſophy, were taught to Youth in the Primitive Church before the fall of the Star from Heaven: yea or nay?

9. Whether wanton Poems, laſcivious Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, ſpoiling Philoſophy, be not of the ſmoak that aroſe out of the bottomleſs pit, which darkened the Sun and Air: yea or nay?

10. Whether wanton Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, ſpoiling Phyloſophy, be not of the foam of that Sea, which the beaſt aroſe out of: yea or nay?

11. Whether the Lord, and his works, which are wonderful, be not ſufficient to take up the ſhort Age of man: yea or nay?

12. Whether wanton Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, ſpoiling Philoſophy, be not of that knowledge, which puffs up, brought into the World, through the breath of Satans Bellows: yea or nay?

13. Whether wanton Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, ſpoiling Phyloſophy, were ever kindled in Chriſtian Churches, before

fore the old Serpent kindled them, by the breath of his Bellows: yea or nay?

14. Whether laſcivious Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, ſpoiling Philoſophy, be not of that wiſdom, which is earthly, ſenſual and deviliſh: yea or nay?

15. Seeing all the Treaſures of wiſdom and knowledge are in Chriſt; are they not deluded who ſeek the ſame at *Ariſtotle*'s mouth, or any other Heathen?

16. Whether wanton Poems, Heathen Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, ſpoiling Philoſophy, and Idolatrous Traditions; be not dregs of the Cup of Abomination and Fornication, wherewith Kindreds, Tongues and People, were, and are made drunk: yea or nay?

17. Whether ſuch as Teach theſe things in Schools and Colledges, be not the old Serpents Cooks, preparing a deadly diſh: yea or nay?

18. Whether ſuch as Teach theſe Heathen things, be not eating the forbidden Fruit: yea or nay?

19. Whether it be not Idolatry to Teach, that *Mars* is the god of War, *Bacchus* the god of Wine, *Apollo* the god of wiſdom: yea or nay?

20. Whether Teachers of a plurality of Gods, be not tranſgreſſors of the Law of *Moſes*, and of the Goſpel: yea or nay?

21. Whether God-fathers and God-mothers ſo called, that vow that ſuch and ſuch Children, ſhall forſake the Devil and all his works, pomps and vanities, yet concern themſelves for their Education in laſcivious Poems, Comedies, Tragedies, Fables, ſpoiling Philoſophy, be Vow keepers or Vow breakers?

22. Whether ſuch as are concerned in Teaching wanton Heathen Authors, are not concern'd to keep that alive, which Chriſt comes to deſtroy: yea or nay?

23. Whether ſuch as Teach Heatheniſm in Schools or Colledges, do not labour to keep the Sun and Air darkened by the ſmoak of the pit: yea or nay?

24. What is the great Star called Wormwood, which fell upon the Rivers and Fountains of Waters; and what are the Waters made bitter whereof many dyed, mentioned *Revel.* the 8*th.*

In Learning of Languages; wholeſome, ſound, ſavoury, uſeful and neceſſary matter, being Learned, a double advantage (as was ſaid before) accrues to the Learner.

Pura decent puerum; ſadis ea temperat ætas
A vitiis puerum nil niſi pura decent,
Virtutum dulces pueris infunde liquores
Et mores ætas promet adulta bonos.

MVSEVM BRITAN